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India after Indira: huge questions raised

DIE WELT

The assassination of Indira Gandhi by religious fanatics will change the face of Asia and have far-reaching consequences for world affairs.

Nehru's only daughter and Mahatma Gandhi's favourite pupil (but no relation to the spiritual father of Indian independence) reigned supreme in Indian politics for over 20 years with her dominating personality.

India may call itself the world's largest democracy, but in reality is only the most heavily-populated one and not, by any stretch of the imagination, the best-functioning democracy.

Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence was ill-suited to the aggressive temperament of Nehru's self-assured and condescending daughter, who as a young woman spent several spells in British jails.

Her youthful experience of the bitter struggle against colonialism, her caste spirit inspired by the anti-Western pride of the Indian upper classes and her unbroken will for power were characteristic of Mrs Gandhi.

They made her not only a national symbol but also, alongside Nasser and Tito, a member of the triumvirate that led the Third World.

Indira Gandhi was India: an explosive charge of political passion constantly igniting the fuses of independence detonations and allowing India neither to achieve domestic stability nor to establish external peace and quiet.

In the nearly 50 years she was a member of the Indian National Congress, but especially after 1966 when she assumed its leadership and took office as Prime Minister, she underwent a chequered career of brilliant victories and humiliating defeats.

She was a volcano in Indian politics, but also the force that kept the gigantic country together.

The question of international importance her assassination poses is that of India's future. The centralism she embodied is unlikely, in a country beset by the centrifugal forces of religious disputes, caste spirit and regional differences, to maintain its position.

The parliamentary elections that are due to be held in spring and cannot constitutionally be delayed for longer than a further six months will show whether Indian unity can survive the loss of such a major integrating personality.

She often showed few democratic scruples in her choice of means by which to stabilise a democracy cut very much to her own cloth.

She split the Congress, manipulated the constitution to the brink of a coup and had no compunction in resorting to electoral corruption.

Yet in spite of the overt brutality of her methods she was the indispensable unifying factor without which India would never have gained the influence on Asian affairs it has exercised.

It is doubtful whether it will continue to wield it. Given the dissension among political groups in India, there is no successor in sight, and certainly not Indira's controversial son, to take her place and authority in national and international affairs.

The West is rid of a most inconvenient opponent at the helm of the non-aligned movement, but it has also lost a factor that seemed to stand for and to ensure continuity.

In the struggle between the great powers for influence on the Third World fresh prospects open up. India has grown less predictable.

In the final years of Indira's rule the harsher clashes with the United States that came to a head during the Vietnam War had eased off to some extent.

The signs are that her death will mark the end of the basis of aggressive nationalism that was characteristic of India in its struggle with Pakistan and its protracted conflict with Red China.

At the height of her power Mrs Gandhi had no compunction in openly siding with communism in a struggle that led to the Congress split and to revolutionary changes in India's party-political landscape.

Non-alignment as she saw it was invariably and overtly pro-Soviet in its leanings. The victory over Pakistan that led to the creation of Bangladesh was won with Soviet weapons. To this day India's military hegemony in South Asia relies on substantial Soviet arms supplies.

But domestic setbacks, from which she repeatedly recovered due to her personal supremacy, made the feared she-tiger more circumspect, and she no longer retained her previous leeway

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President Mubarak of Egypt (left) with Chancellor Kohl in Bonn.
(Photo: Werek)

Mubarak tries to win support for his Middle East policy

President Mubarak of Egypt had talks with Chancellor Kohl, Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann and Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg during a visit to the Federal Republic. Topics discussed included the Middle East situation, nuclear power, commerce and economic aid.

President Mubarak visited Bonn to enlist German and EEC support for Egyptian policy in the Middle East. But what can Europe do as matters stand? Potential leeway for parties concerned seems for the time being to be exhausted.

Peace plans, such as President Reagan's and the proposal drawn up by Arab leaders in Fez in autumn 1982, may exist, but for the moment nearly all options seem to have been taken up in full.

The Arabs, apart from Libya, are now generally prepared to acknowledge Israel's right to exist, but only if Israel in return hands back the occupied territories and agrees to the establishment of a Palestinian West Bank state.

But no major political force in Israel is either able or willing to consider the idea.

Besides, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights have unilaterally been incorporated in the State of Israel, and a review of Israeli settlement policies on the West Bank would be virtually out of the question in domestic political terms.

Irreconcilable differences of interpretation exist on the unfinished second part of the Camp David Agreement providing for gradual transition to Palestinian autonomy.

Israel has limited, Egypt full autonomy in mind. This is a difference of viewpoint on which President Sadat encountered insuperable difficulties.

So neither the Arabs nor Israel can be expected to make further concessions, and concessions are needed if the only reasonably realistic idea, the plan for a confederation linking Jordan and the Palestinians, is to make headway.

This plan would also call for a high degree of personal courage on the part of King Hussein of Jordan, who may already have hesitated for too long.

He certainly had greater leeway while the guns were smoking in Lebanon than now Syria's leeway seems to be growing.

He can certainly rule out any idea of coming to terms with Israel if the Gulf War ends with an outcome at all satisfactory from Baghdad's point of view.

A settlement can only be reached from within the Middle East itself, and the outlook could hardly be poorer. Outside attempts to promote the peace process seem unlikely to do much good at present.

Moscow's old plan for a full-scale Middle East conference backed by both superpowers cannot be put into effect as long as Israel refuses to consider it.

Washington insists on the Reagan Plan, which is also rejected by Israel, while the United States has forfeited

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■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Mitterrand gets historic and healthy setting

There seemed to be no end to M. Mitterrand's after-dinner speech at the 44th round of Franco-German consultations in Bad Kreuznach.

He was keen to avoid creating any impression of routine and to undertake a political commitment to European integration.

"Let us be ambitious for Europe and the Community! Let us be ambitious for the Community above and beyond Europe!" he had the interpreter proclaim to Chancellor Kohl and the six Bonn Cabinet Ministers who made up the German delegation.

On over half a dozen occasions he used the term "ambition" in connection with Europe, reminding the Chancellor, his host, of the responsibility and the vanguard role of the countries they represented.

"Europe will need to be ambitious to handle the tasks that await it, especially enlargement from 10 to 12 member-states," President Mitterrand concluded, that being a point on which the two sides had agreed at their first round of talks.

The French President did not allow the proceedings to backslide to the non-committal level that might have been feared after the Chancellor's simple speech and reference to the fact that this was the 44th round of Franco-German talks.

They showed, Herr Kohl said, what a matter of course the consultations had come to be.

Did that make them a fact-finding encounter, a routine visit, a courtesy call with no significant political ramifications? Bad Kreuznach was definitely something more, something different.

Adenauer and de Gaulle met at the same venue on 26 November 1958 to lay the groundwork for Franco-German reconciliation, solemnised by the terms of the 1963 friendship treaty.

It was General de Gaulle's first foreign visit since being elected head of state, and the fact that he chose to visit Germany, France's erstwhile arch-enemy, had more than merely symbolic character at the time.

That was the last previous occasion on which Bad Kreuznach, a well-known spa and wine centre on the Nahe, a tributary of the Rhine, hosted a state visit.

It was to have welcomed GDR leader Erich Honecker a month earlier, but East-West tension led to the cancellation of the East German leader's visit.

But the former *Kurhaus*, now run as a private spa hotel, has frequently been the scene of historic occasions, visitors are soon told by local people.

The town has a population of 41,000 Germans and a US garrison of about 25,000 servicemen and their families.

In 1917 the Kaiser and his general staff set up their headquarters in the *Kurhaus*, which had been built just four years earlier. So Bad Kreuznach turned out to be the last Imperial residence on German soil.

Between 1918 and 1923 the French general staff, headed first by General Mangin, then by Marshal Foch, took over.

In 1939 Field-Marshal von Witzleben used the *Kurhaus* as his Wehrmacht headquarters until the end of the French campaign.

After the Second World War the French army's general command set up its northern zone HQ in the building.

President Mitterrand seemed to feel that holding Franco-German consultations at this historic venue 26 years after the meeting between Adenauer and de Gaulle imposed a special obligation on him.

He donated to the city of Koblenz a gigantic 16th century German cannon, indicating the extent to which the erstwhile arch-enemies are now comrades-in-arms.

The Griffin, 4.66 metres long and nearly 15 tons, was the largest cannon of its kind in the 16th century. It was cast in either 1524 or 1528 in Frankfurt and has had a chequered past.

It was taken by the French from Ehrenbreitstein Castle, near Koblenz, in 1799 and removed to Metz with 150 other cannons for safe keeping.

It is now to survey the Rhine for good from Ehrenbreitstein Castle, on permanent loan from France as a token of Franco-German understanding.

Chancellor Kohl's gift was similarly symbolic. The German city of Trier had agreed to part company with the 1793 French revolutionary colours of the Third Artillery Regiment, which were taken in 1794 at the battle of Valenciennes.

Chancellor Kohl presented the colours to President Mitterrand as a permanent loan by the 2,000-year-old city of Trier, and the Chancellor was visibly pleased to be able to make this gesture.

The Chancellor and his six fellow-members of the Bonn Cabinet, hard-pressed at home by the Flick Affair, clearly enjoyed the Franco-German summit.

It was a welcome opportunity of diverting attention to some extent from problems in Bonn.

Heinrich Halbig

(Der Tagesspiegel, 31 October 1984)

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much of its fund of goodwill in the Arab world.

So the Middle East will have to continue for some time to live in a state midway between war and peace, with a flare-up a constant possibility.

Israel, like its most resolute opponents, seems to be banking on time. Yet in this respect, if only for demographic reasons, the Arabs would seem to be in the better position.

In the circumstances all Europe can do is try to wield an effect on the framework conditions. The EEC can contribute toward economic stability in the Arab world.

It can aim to promote the Euro-Arab dialogue and to boost cooperation with moderates, such as the Gulf states.

It can also continue to appeal to all concerned to show common sense and try to arrive at a relaxation of irreconcilable viewpoints.

The fact-finding mission Foreign Minister Andreotti of Italy is to make to the Middle East early next year will arrive at no other conclusion.

A number of Arab leaders have hoped in vain that the EEC might be able to exert effective influence on Israeli or American Middle East policy. These hopes have long been shown to be wishful thinking.

But an unstable peace in the Middle East is still better than open conflict, and the end of Egypt's isolation and President Mubarak's plan to rally at least moderates in the Arab world thus deserve all support.

Egypt under President Mubarak provides a crucial guarantee of relative stability in the region. That is why economic cooperation with Cairo is of great importance, and Egypt has long been a major recipient of German development aid.

Bonn's aid to Egypt has totalled DM3.5bn. This year's total will be DM268m and the Egyptian leader will have had no difficulty in gaining assurances in Bonn of at least the same amount next year.

Given the social and religious trouble that has accumulated in Egypt, domestic destabilisation is a very real threat, and given what, in terms of world affairs, is an even more alarming state of affairs in the Middle East, destabilisation in Egypt would be disastrous.

The Palestine conflict can be contained, as has repeatedly been demonstrated, with both superpowers playing a part. But they are steering a wide berth of the Gulf War between Iran and Iraq.

Washington and Moscow well know that the Middle East has always been a fulcrum of the international strategic balance.

Since the Shah's ouster a situation has arisen that could get out of control and involve the superpowers from one day to the next.

The West's friendship with Egypt and its domestic stability are of inestimable value in view of this danger in particular.

Wolf J. Bell

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 30 October 1984)

Murder of priest reveals split in Polish party

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The Poles now know for sure that the kidnapped priest, Father Popieluszko, is dead. The shock sits deep. It is as though people knew the country had reached yet another crucial and dangerous milestone.

Can General Jaruzelski keep up his risky tight-rope walk between tolerance and repression? Will the Church succeed in channelling protest and keeping Opposition hotheads under control?

The popular priest's abductors have certainly yet to achieve any of what may be assumed to have been their objectives.

In the hour of need Poles are heeding with unexpected presence of mind appeals for peace and quiet by the Church, by labour leader Lech Walesa and by the government.

General Jaruzelski's opponents in the Party and the corridors of power are unlikely to have expected his government to enjoy a modicum of widespread public solidarity on this point.

Yet the powers that be are believed when they say they had nothing to do with the abduction and murder of Father Popieluszko. People believe them when they say the assassination is a blow at the government too, as it were.

This is due to no small extent to what, for a communist regime, is the unaccustomed frankness with which the Polish authorities have conducted their enquiries.

Who ever would have thought that an East Bloc Interior Minister would admit to the general public that three security officials, men for whose activities he is responsible, had been arrested and charged?

That will unquestionably have fostered confidence, but it is a trust that must constantly be re-earned if the government is not to end up being accused of being hand-in-glove with the murderers [...] government's opportunity is that of [...] suing a serious policy of telling the [...] and making people feel it means [...] says when it claims to want to [...] the facts of the case and to unmask [...] instigators.

General Jaruzelski may soon reach [...] end of his tether on this point, however. There are signs that the three murde[rers] were acting on behalf of a Party g[roup] that rejects the General's policy as too [...] and liberal toward the Opposition.

For the time being there can be [...] ruling out the possibility that the i[nsti]gators see themselves as acting in [...] Soviet interest and maybe even expe[ct]ing Soviet backing.

If this were the case, General Ja[ru]zelski would need to be extremely ca[re]ful no matter how resolved he was [...] frank and honest.

In the long run he is no longer [...] than other East Bloc leaders to ride [...] a conflict in which the Soviet Union [...] not on his side.

The Kremlin is probably already [...] ant to tolerate General Jaruzelski's ec[on]omic and social policies, which by E[ast] Bloc standards are the soul of modera[tion].

The Soviet Union has accepted the [...] of a special Polish road to socialism [...] cause it has realised so far that there [...] alternative short of allowing Poland to [re]main a permanent East Bloc basket case.

Indeed, it was in the Soviet inte[rest] and in that of the entire East Bloc [...] General Jaruzelski to succeed in b[...] ing his reputation in the West and [...] ing the US sanctions lifted.

The Polish leader had already [...] the cordon sanitaire of isolation [...] posed upon him after he imposed m[ar]tial law and resumed Poland's dial[ogue] with the West.

This progress may all be in jeop[ardy] again: the relative peace and quiet in [Po]land, the gradual economic recovery [...] the resumption of talks with the West.

If Poland were to become a tro[uble] spot again, General Jaruzelski's d[ays] would doubtless be numbered. So [...] has no choice. He must abide by [...] moderate reform course.

After the abduction and assassina[tion] of a priest who symbolised the resis[tance] he may well stand a better chance [...] ever of succeeding, at least where Po[lish] domestic conditions are concerned.

The point is, of course, whether [...] Kremlin will continue to back him [...] improbably, the murder of Father [...]

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HOME AFFAIRS

Greens advance in State local government poll

[Th]e Greens have made more advances. [In] local government elections in Baden-Württemberg, preliminary returns in[di]cate that they have won 7 per cent of [th]e vote. In metropolitan areas, their [vo]te was over 10 per cent, and in Tübingen, they even outpolled the Social Democrats. The Christian Democrats lost votes but remain the biggest party in the State.

The extent of the Greens' showing in Baden-Württemberg astonished [ev]en their own people.

The problem has now emerged, just [as whi]le in North Rhine-Westphalia, that the [p]arty will be struggling to find enough [pe]ople to fill all the places they have [w]on in the town halls across the State.

But that is really secondary. Who can [n]ow say what the party's potential really is, and in which direction they are attracted.

Caution is required in assessing the [el]ection results so far because several [ke]y areas are not included.

Obviously an increasing sector of vo[ter]s is no longer accepting the views of [th]e traditional political parties and are [se]nding the Greens into Parliament.

In the university town of Tübingen [th]e Greens have displaced the SPD for [secon]d place, and in a number of other towns and cities the SPD can feel the Greens breathing hard down their neck.

In the state capital Stuttgart the gradual decline of the SPD has taken on catastrophic proportions. The party as not deserved this as a CDU mayor said on the evening of the election.

But how to stop the trend when here as elsewhere the SPD is filled with complacency and in fact seems to fall between two stools.

Those who believed that the electors would take the opportunity to give Bonn the cold shoulder in view of the low to which it has fallen were disappointed.

The CDU did well, only losing a little ground. Chancellor Kohl set the pattern by sitting out the storm, and his supporters followed suit.

It is uncertain if the dying Black Forest in the region has harmed Lothar Späth's party. There are no indications that this is the case so far.

There is not much to be said of the FDP's role in local government. There is little hope for the Liberals who have again suffered losses and here and there hold the balance with the Greens who carry all before them.

We take far too little notice of the floating voters. Their votes indicate how strong the aversion against the parties really is, and in which direction they are attracted.

Local politics calls for human understanding, which should be geared to the well-being of the community not ideology.

Roughly speaking the central factor to emerge from this election is that the Greens are regarded by the public at large as well on the way to forming an opposition party. Fewer and fewer voters are willing to accept the view expressed by the established political parties that the Greens are not politically adequate and only capable of stirring up emotions.

This could mean that many citizens have other expectations from politics and the political machine, than is commonly believed. It could mean that the electorate is not wholly convinced that the established political parties are the only ones with a call on common sense.

Is a person who sends to a Swabian town hall a representative any less foolish because he would like to have the community declared a nuclear-free zone and drastic measures applied for the protection of the environment in the community's industry, than his neighbour who for decades, because of his or her origins and religious persuasion, has stood by, for example, the CDU candidate?

For this reason the SPD, that has got into a scrape, must swiftly find an answer to the irresistible speed with which the Greens have shot up.

Local elections should not be regarded as the last word.

Peter Henkel

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 October 1984)

Success poses dilemma for fourth party

[In]creasing Greens' success at the polls [i]s giving the party increasing prob[l]ems.

Should it continue to be a protest [mo]vement, evading political responsib[ilit]y?

Or is it ready to take part in govern[men]t without delay? Or at least accept a [pa]rtnership arrangement?

The Greens are still divided among [th]emselves, as ever, on these questions [a]s shown by what is happening in [N]orth Rhine-Westphalia and Hesse.

The longer the Greens vouchsafe no [re]ply to their voters on these questions [th]e longer it will be before it is possible [t]o define the political value of the "[f]ourth party".

One wing of the Greens argues for a [ca]utious cooperation with the SPD, and [th]e other argues for an intensification of [di]fferences. Only the successes achieved so far have kept the pragmatic reformers and the radical fundamentalists together.

In this matter the Greens' parliamentary party has played no significant role.

In Hesse the Greens have dared to propose cooperation with the SPD. The alliance is going through a hard trial period. Since Holger Börner's minority government supported by the Greens said that it was not prepared to close down the two nuclear plants at Hanau the Greens have threatened to walk out of the alliance.

Apart from Hanau difficult questions were raised by putting into operation the fast— breeding reactor in Kalkar as well as the reprocessing reactor in Gorleben. It is, then, not just their plant at Hanau but West Germany's nuclear policy as a whole that is under dispute.

The Greens are dead against this policy. The internal discussion about the continuance of the first Greens-SPD alliance involves also a debate on the Greens own beliefs.

And again the conflict flares up between the pragmatic Greens and the fundamentalists in the party, who regard supporting Börner as a betrayal of the Greens' protest ideas.

The row in Hanau shows the susceptibility of agreements with the Greens. In government their unreliability would be even greater.

The pragmatists among the Greens in North Rhine-Westphalia have suffered a defeat, that voters will take note of just before the state election. The majority are against the stipulation of "tolerating" a government formed by Johannes Rau. Yet again the voters do not know the direction the Greens are taking.

The Greens step aside from decision-making and appeal to their ill-defined democratic basis. Within this basis cooperation with the SPD functions well in certain places. This will be seen in a number of local government bodies.

All this must confuse voters.

The Greens want to be a party in government and a movement outside government. Behind this is a calculated election tactic that has so far been successful.

In this way the extra-parliamentary vote, such as the peace movement, is held secure, whilst at the same time keeping a hold on the middle-class vote that extends from angered milk farmers to those totally fed up.

But how long can the Greens be a political party and a movement?

The Greens see no contradiction here, but vital decisions for the next elections will make this contradiction even more clear.

The SPD have an answer for the Greens. In the Saar Oskar Lafontaine has found a formula for working together. Börner is still wriggling. Rau hopes for an absolute majority.

In Lower Saxony the SPD chairman Gerhard Hans Schröder is prepared to form an SPD-Greens alliance. Hans Apel in West Berlin is not yet prepared to do this.

The major decision will have to be faced in 1987 in Bonn. But it is questionable if the Greens can continue to convince electors by their ambiguous position.

Ekkehard Kohrs

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 16 October 1984)

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[sin]ce America under President Nixon [ca]me to terms with Peking.

In her later days she sought to settle [bo]rder disputes and to establish cultural [an]d economic ties with China. She was [ev]en cautiously critical of the Soviet in[va]sion of Afghanistan, which funda[men]tally changed the political atmos[ph]ere in the Far East.

She could hardly fail to see Japan's [re]adiness to resume greater political re[s]ponsibility as a sign that trends in Asia [w]ere running counter to the direction [s]he had advocated so resolutely for so [lo]ng.

The Third World will need to reor[i]entate itself after her death. The cards [w]ill be reshuffled in the geopolitical [c]ard game in the Far East.

Heinz Barth

(Die Welt, 1 November 1984)

Strauss takes a realistic stance

Nordwest Zeitung

The slogan "Finding the Way" dominating the CSU party conference was in itself a criticism of coalition partners CDU and FDP.

Seen in the pure light of day it would seem that the Kohl-Genscher team have put up a poor showing, seen two years after the change of government, and that the government's course is being directed from Munich not Bonn.

In other respects the CSU has held back from being critical.

Franz Josef Strauss, the CSU chairman was quite mild in his comments on the CDU and FDP. In saying that there was no alternative to the CDU/CSU-FDP coalition in Bonn he displayed his healthy realism.

It is pointless to ask, in view of the course the conference took, if Franz Josef Strauss knew the results of a recent poll that showed that the CDU-CSU and FDP were openly a few points in front of the SPD-Greens combination.

Despite occasional diversions the CSU conference showed that Strauss is a pragmatist with the right feel for what is possible. Strauss can bend his knee to constraints, and go along with those who are of the view that the FDP is needed.

The situation is now different to the 1983 general election when the CDU-CSU hoped to squeeze out the FDP and obtain a majority. If the FDP fails to surmount the five per cent hurdle there is a likelihood of an SPD-Greens alliance.

This time Strauss has good reasons for treating the FDP with consideration, especially as a grand coalition with the SPD seems unlikely. A grand coalition would subject the SPD to a test of nerves and then weaken considerably the SPD wing that is prepared to consider a coalition with the Union parties.

National political considerations of this kind have not weakened the important role the CSU plays in the coalition government in Bonn.

CSU politicians such as Theo Waigel, Friedrich Zimmermann and even Ignaz Kiechle, who has been hard done by, have been given backing by the party conference on such issues as law, interior policies, foreign policy, security, agriculture and environmental protection.

It is obvious that new problems with the FDP are in the offing whose solution could be made much easier since the FDP has no intention of gambling away power in Bonn.

Strauss showed at the weekend that he is prepared to limit the extent of his conflicts with the FDP. This ensures for Strauss a suitable influence on policies in Bonn. He has also strengthened the party basis.

Those who can recall the last CSU party conference when Strauss stood well and truly in the line of fire, must give him credit for the way he has manoeuvred the CSU on a cooperation course.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 22 October 1984)

■ DEFENCE

Rogers plan aims at delaying need to use tactical nuclear weapons

Fofa, the latest addition to Nato military jargon, is an abbreviation that could well trigger yet another public debate.

It stands for follow-on forces attack, and US General Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, hopes Nato Defence Ministers will back it at their planning committee session in Brussels next month.

The 14 chiefs of staff of Nato countries (excepting France and Iceland) have already given their approval.

Fofa is basically the plan outlined two years ago as the Rogers Plan.

In the event of an attack on the Federal Republic by Warsaw Pact forces Nato troops are to be in a position to hit out at the Warsaw Pact's second wave, or follow-on forces, with long-range, accurately-targetable, non-nuclear weapons.

They must be able to do so, either preventing the follow-up attack or destroying forces assigned to carry it out, well behind the demarcation line and in the Warsaw Pact's troop assembly areas.

General Rogers' declared intention is to make a realistic forward defence possible on the eastern border of the Federal Republic without needing to resort at an early stage to first use of tactical nuclear weapons.

He pessimistically noted, in a *Reuters* interview, that if Nato were attacked today it would face a choice between capitulation and resort to nuclear weapons in days rather than weeks.

Yet last year he said that between 1985 and 1990 Nato defence spending would need to be increased by an annual seven per cent in real terms to rule out this eventuality.

Only then could a non-nuclear defence capacity be built up to obviate the need to resort to tactical nuclear weapons, at least in the early stages of an East Bloc attack.

The heavy cost of new long-range, non-nuclear precision weapons must be borne in mind in any such raising of the nuclear threshold.

He now adopts another argument, saying that a non-nuclear guided missile along Fofa lines would cost a mere $500,000, as against $25m for an aircraft designed for the same purpose.

Frankfurter Rundschau

Nato planners prefer no longer to rely on their combat aircraft for use in enemy hinterland because of the substantial increase in East Bloc anti-aircraft defences.

It will by now have been realised that the Fofa concept is not entirely new. The new weapon systems are designed to regain the ability to ward off Warsaw Pact follow-on forces before they even reach the demarcation line.

Nato's flexible response strategy, with the possible first use of tactical nuclear weapons, would not be abandoned as a result of the massive reinforcement of non-nuclear fighting strength envisaged by General Rogers.

But planners at Nato headquarters feel the nuclear threshold needs raising for military reasons because, in the longer term, the credibility of the nuclear deterrent could become even more doubtful than some already feel it is.

This might occur as a result of new developments in strategic weapon systems by both superpowers.

Raising the nuclear threshold is politically opportune too, with the possible first use of nuclear weapons by the West increasingly upsetting parts of public opinion in the United States and a number of European Nato countries.

Although General Rogers definitely has enough political acumen and will have foreseen trends in Western Europe, a number of Defence Ministers were less than enthusiastic about the Rogers Plan.

There were suspsicions that the main aim was to sell to Europe for a small fortune the latest weapons developed by US arms manufacturers.

Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner is likely to encounter substantial domestic resistance to the Fofa concept.

It was clear at the Social Democrats' Essen conference that many rank-and-file SPD members are opposed to anything that looks like Nato military moves on East Bloc territory.

That may well have been due, to no small extent, to various statements by President Reagan and Defence Secretary Weinberger.

Yet the SPD has so far been unable to come up with a convincing new defence concept of its own. To limit all fighting to one's own territory in the event of an East Bloc attack would be tantamount to suicide for the densely-populated Federal Republic.

An explosive background to the Fofa concept is provided by misunderstandings, some of which are intentional, with regard to the AirLand Battle concept.

The US strategic plans, or pan[...] them not accepted by Nato countri[...] Europe, provide for far-reaching [...]ventive strikes in enemy hinterland [...] counter-attacks by Western land for[...]

General Rogers recently stressed [...] it would be rubbish to regard Fof[...] the AirLand Battle strategy in all [...] name. "What I am talking about is [...] weapon systems and not a massed [...] attack on Prague or Warsaw."

Nato secretary-general Lord Carri[...]ton is busy trying to lend General R[...]ers support in the public debate on [...]ence issues.

In a fundamental speech to the B[...]gian Royal Institute of Internati[...] Relations he stressed that to forgo [...] possible first use of nuclear weapon[...] defence was to weaken the deterr[...] and with it the fundamental objective [...] preventing war.

Lord Carrington referred to the [...]lemn declarations by Nato heads of g[...]ernment and Foreign Ministers that [...] to countries would attack neither [...] East Bloc nor anyone else and w[...] thus themselves never prompt the [...] use of nuclear weapons.

Western Europeans who called [...] nuclear-free zones in Europe and [...] nuclear disarmament by Britain [...] France were weakening the North A[...]lantic pact and imposing a special b[...]en on the United States.

Ethical arguments could hardly [...] advanced. Those who advocated un[...]teral nuclear disarmament by the We[...] might in moral terms be acting logical[...]

But in practice they would be all[...]ing the Soviet Union a monopoly [...] nuclear weapons and thereby runni[...] grave risk.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 November 1[...])

Conscription to be three months longer

Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner can breathe a sigh of relief. He has notched up a major political success in gaining Cabinet approval for his Bundeswehr planning.

The Chancellor has sided with him and set the carping Free Democrats, junior partners in the Bonn coalition, to rights.

During the lifetime of the present Bundestag the coalition is to lengthen military service from 15 to 18 months, the change being scheduled to take effect from 1989.

It is neither a half-baked decision nor a resort to fence-sitting or taking a wait-and-see attitude.

It is a decision that ought to be a matter of course given that the problem, an imminent Bundeswehr manpower shortage, can be accurately forecast.

Besides, no-one can seriously deny that in the final analysis only longer military service can really improve matters, and the decision will not only help military leaders to draw up reliable plans.

It will also boost Herr Wörner's hard-hit reputation with both the armed forces and the general public, and that can only be welcomed when it is appreciated what an unsatisfactory state of affairs would otherwise have arisen.

There would have been a grave risk of the Minister's authority declining and the military leaders' authority increasing steadily and in inverse ratio. Herr Wörner's success has ruled out this risk for the time being, but the next test already lies in store.

In politics a week can be a very long time, and in the years ahead the Defence Minister will have an obstacle race to complete before we will know whether it was merely a momentary victory or a long-term one.

An abundance of tricky issues awaits solution, especially as the Chancellor felt it was right for his Defence Minister not to commit himself yet on important details.

Herr Wörner has not, for instance, been given Cabinet approval for the extra funds needed to offer fresh incentives to sign on as a career soldier in the Bundeswehr.

It also remains to be seen whether the Bundeswehr will be allocated enough extra cash annually to both bridge the manpower gap and go ahead with procurement programmes that are already posing grave financial problems.

So the Minister's political clout has yet to be demonstrated, and it will also remain to be seen whether 456,000 men (rather than 489,000) will be enough to counter a military threat Wörner's political advisers say is steadily mounting.

On this point in particular Herr Wörner has yet to indicate how many men he feels will be needed to serve in immediately operational units and how many reservists must be on standby to ensure full Bundeswehr strength can be mobilised when needed.

He might well have looked into these issues in greater detail over the past two years and made detailed suggestions in a more ambitious document than [...] present modest paper.

Above all, it will be interesting to [...] whether the Free Democrats take [...] in this quest for solutions and whet[...] the abrupt change from constant cri[...]ism of Herr Wörner to support for [...] amounts to more than the desire to [...] ways side with the majority.

Proposals submitted by Social Dem[...]crat Hans Apel when he was Defen[...] Minister in Bonn earned the critical FD[...] comment that his commission of inqu[...] might have been expected not to shirk [...] trouble of looking into new ideas.

The Free Democrats felt the findi[...] were all old hat, and in order not to [...] misunderstood they said the white p[...]per was a document testifying to help[...]lessness.

Now, two years later, the Free Dem[...]crats have endorsed identical propos[...] submitted by Christian Democrat Ma[...]fred Wörner. They have also failed [...] put forward concepts of their own.

For the Social Democrats this exam[...]ple of Free Democratic inconstancy [...] an important lesson to teach.

Their break with Helmut Schmidt[...] policy of maintaining equilibrium [...] autumn has made many people, inclu[...]ing people in the Bundeswehr, forg[...] that the SPD, alongside Franz Jos[...] Strauss's CSU, has so far done most [...] ensure the fighting strength of [...] armed forces.

Besides, of all parties the SPD m[...] intensively endorsed the demand for [...]fence to be made less dependent [...] nuclear weapons. If it were to ba[...] down again, especially on longer mi[...]tary service, it would be lagging behi[...] yet again.

Walther Stütz[...]

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19 October 1[...])

Continued from page 2

pieluszko was a sign that Moscow would like to see the Polish regime ousted.

It would certainly not be the first time the atrophied Kremlin regime had backed henchmen who promised peace and quiet but delivered the quiet of the grave from which the entire East Bloc suffers.

Both East and West, assuming them to arrive at a sensible definition of their respective interests, ought in the circumstances to be keen to strengthen General Jaruzelski's hand.

The Poles at all events appear to realise that if he went, worse would follow. But he must deliver the goods they expect of him: political honesty, economic improvements and at least the modicum of freedom communist systems can afford to permit.

Joachim Worthmann

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 31 October 1984)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Civil rights and military rule in Berlin: conflict that won't go away

Frankfurter Rundschau

Young people, old folk say, have the wrong end of the stick on Allied [...]hts in Berlin. When the war was over, [...] winners had won and the losers lost. [...]at, and not civil rights, is what wars [...]e about.

In Berlin, the older generation argue, [...]ere is nothing you can do about the [...]llies. If they want to use Kurfürsten[...]damm as a rifle range, then that's how it [...]ill be.

The Allies' word is law. They can cen[...]sor letters, tap phones and, if so in[...]clined, impose the death penalty for [...]ossession of a kitchen knife, to quote Governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen.

Berliners who don't have their ident[...]ity card on them face a jail sentence, as [...] civilians who try to intimidate an Al[...]lied serviceman (Allied Order No. 515) [...] spread unfriendly rumours or make [...]sparaging remarks about an occupy[...]ing power (Order No. 502).

That's always been the way it was af[...]ter a war, older people argue, and that's [...] it still is.

For decades they have seen at first [...]and how Berlin's status has had to be [...]fended in the face of external threats, [...]cluding the Blockade, the Soviet ulti[...]matum, the Wall and so on.

Such experiences have made their [...]. A typical remark was that made [...] Governing Mayor Klaus Schütz, now [...]ector-general of Deutsche Welle, the [...]ogne short-wave radio station, when students demonstrated against America's role in the Vietnam war.

No-one in Berlin, he said in the late 1960s, had any right "to spit on the boots of the American protecting power."

Books by international lawyers on how to protect the city's status from "the Russians" fill shelves by the row in specialist libraries, but young people today face different problems.

When the Berlin Wall was built in 1961 they weren't yet born. When the Four-Power Agreement came into force in 1972 they were still children. Today's school-leavers say their elders are to blame for not having stood up for their rights.

In the late 1970s, when the Americans rode roughshod over objections and bulldozed a beauty spot in Düppel to build quarters for US servicemen and their families, young people consulted reference libraries for literature on civil rights with regard to the Allies.

There was, they discovered, no literature whatever on the subject. The problem had been paid no attention.

It came to a head in the early 1980s when the British decided to build a rifle range of their own in Gatow for the 3,000-odd men of the BAOR Berlin Brigade.

The range, 600 metres long, was to be built next door to a housing estate with the idyllic name Habichtswald, or Goshawk Wood, which accurately reflected the rural setting but didn't seem likely to do much longer once gunfire resounded.

The young soon realised why no comparable facility for field artillery practice had ever been built so near to a residential area anywhere else in the West. Nowhere else in Nato were civilians so bereft of civil rights.

Tens of thousands of people signed petitions. Gatow assumed symbolic proportions and the range backfired badly, in political terms, on the commanding officer of the British sector.

Civil rights campaigners have since kept up the pressure, quietly but determinedly, and hampered by German courts' lack of jurisdiction.

Right after the war, in Control Council Act No. 7, the Allies had ruled that German courts were not entitled to hold proceedings against the occupying powers without their permission.

The three Western Allies were not even prepared to allow a *Land* constitutional court to be set up. West Berliners were promised that special Allied courts would be set up to deal with cases to which German jurisdiction didn't apply, but the promise has yet to be honoured.

Young people would probably still be up in arms against the all-powerful Allies had not two lawyers tackled the issue.

They were Herbert J. Stern, an American, and West Berlin lawyer Reiner Geulen.

Stern was, in a manner of speaking, an experiment on the Americans' part. He was appointed to preside over a US Court of Berlin set up specially in 1978 to pass judgment on Detlef Tiede, a hijacker from the East.

Stern, accustomed to US legal standards, was so outraged at the situation in West Berlin that after finding Tiede guilty on 27 May 1979 he demonstratively set him free rather than hand him over to authorities that had previously so grossly disregarded the principle of giving the accused a fair hearing.

He has since published a book on the proceedings entitled Judgement in Berlin, and last summer the *Washington Post* carried a full-page review of it.

In keeping with US constitutional principles he insisted on trial by jury, and the 12 jurors were ordinary West Berliners selected at random. It was the first time since the war that Germans in West Berlin reached a decision that was binding on the Allies. That was the first dent in Allied omnipotence.

The second and third came when Reiner Geulen appealed, first in connection with Düppel, to a US court of appeal in the United States that had no choice but to find itself entitled to review Allied rights.

By the terms of the Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution everyone is entitled to a court hearing on matters relating to his freedom or property.

A few months ago, this time in connection with Gatow, he appealed to a high court in London, where the bench said it needed no reminding of the European convention on human rights, which states that everyone has the right to a fair and impartial trial within a reasonable space of time.

It was well aware, the high court said, without having its attention drawn to the fact that there were innate rights enjoyed by all citizens all over the world.

That, of course, is the problem. If courts in Allied capitals can review and rectify measures undertaken by their respective military governments in Berlin, then the city may in a few years' time be divided into four, not two.

Much mention has been made of setting up an Allied court of appeal in West Berlin, but that seems a doubtful idea. It would end legal uniformity in Berlin and the Federal Republic.

Besides, the Allies are resisting wherever they can a trend they are unlikely to be able to call to a halt.

When Judge Stern seemed inclined, in 1979, to look into the Düppel housing project, the US ambassador in Bonn, Walter Stoessel, sent him straight back to the United States. He was entitled to do so as US high commissioner for Germany.

When, in November, the London high court resumes its deliberations on the "undue noise" of the Gatow range, the British government will try to extricate itself from its Allied responsibilities in West Berlin by means of a very strange legal construction.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has submitted an affidavit explaining that the British commanding officer as an Allied official in Berlin is an "organ of the German state" and thus beyond the reach of British jurisdiction.

Yet it could hardly be more obvious that a BAOR brigade commander is merely commanding officer of the British sector in West Berlin and not, by any stretch of the imagination, the successor of either Hitler or Dönitz.

There are signs that the Western Allies are beginning to take the point that civil rights in the divided city are more than a mere matter of errors of judgement by the occupying powers on tricky issues.

On some points, such as enquiries in connection with the 5,000 to 6,000 Allied regulations issued since 1945 and still in force, they have embarked on a tactical withdrawal.

Whenever any of these regulations is involved, West Berlin courts are duty-bound to refer the case to the Allies and ask whether Allied law is to be applied.

Over 500 enquiries a year are made, the decision is entirely up to the Allies and they are increasingly saying no.

Ought cases against young anti-Reagan demonstrators to be heard in accordance with Allied law? No, and it was the same when German trade union pickets blocked the autobahn last autumn.

The Allies originally wanted to try in accordance with Allied law 300 demonstrators who blockaded a US barracks last autumn. The first cases had been heard by German courts and the accused been acquitted. The Allies are now seriously considering dropping the idea.

Whether that will be enough to pacify public opinion is another matter. Mayor Diepgen at 42 is certainly midway in age between young and old. He must have sensed the trend, for on his first visits to Allied capitals he called for a clean sweep of Allied legal provisions.

Lists have since been drawn up and attempts made to reconcile the views of the invariably awkward French, the oc-

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■ COOPERATION

Negotiating an obstacle course to draw up third Lomé Treaty

Frankfurter Rundschau

The third Lomé agreement between the EEC nations and the 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations is certain to be signed in December.

But it has been hard going trying to reach agreement on the treaty, which will replace Lomé II, which lapses at the end of next year.

Bonn Minister of State Jürgen Möllemann and those from other EEC countries returned early in frustration, leaving civil servants to get on with the final points.

One of the main bones of contention was human rights. ACP states are very sensitive about this, but Britain and Holland, looking at the serious cases of Uganda and the Central African Republic during the rule of Bokassa, wanted the wording to be clearer.

ACP nations are also sensitive over any signs of mistrust or a patronising attitude over accounting for the use of cash.

One of the last problems needing to be ironed out was that of tuna fish landed in Fiji by Japanese trawlers and sold to the EEC.

At the moment, the fish cannot be sold free of duty in the EEC if it is only canned in Fiji.

The situation now is that what the ministers and state secretaries left undone is being stitched together by the Mali ambassador to the European Community, Yaya Diarra, on behalf of the ACP states and the European Community director general for development Dieter Frisch.

After the chaos of the latest negotiations both sides have been given a clarification regarding the room for manoeuvre allowed them.

Frisch, a West German, knows from years of experience what are the sore points in relations between the ACP states and the industrialised countries of the European Community, and as a consequence he is optimistic of the outcome. He was involved in the birth of Lomé I in 1974 and took part in the negotiations for Lomé II in 1979.

He said: "I think we shall be able to find solutions for the points of difference remaining."

What is a point at issue and which is not included in the text of the agreement is human rights.

In an article of the agreement that has already been approved it is stated that the aim of the cooperation between the two sides is "the develoment of people and their abilities by safeguarding human dignity."

British and Dutch parliamentarians are asking for a clearer formulation in the agreement as a result of several bad examples among African partner states — for instance Uganda and the Central African Republic during the period of "Emperor" Bokassa.

The treaty has to be ratified by the parliaments of the Ten EEC members so a way has to be found round this problem about which the ACP states are every sensitive.

The 66-member states fear that if human rights are mentioned in the treaty the European Community would stop the flow of development aid to a specific ACP state if there were flagrant cases of disregard of human rights. In negotiations the ACP states have stood solidly together on this issue.

It is a fact that Brussels has in the past for a time turned off aid to states where there is unrest or military dispute, "for the benefit of the suffering people".

The only difficulty from the EEC side is the formuation of the words under the heading "political dialogue".

The EEC Development Aid Commissioner Edgard Pisani and his general director Frisch have recognised that the previous practice of individual development projects — here a school, there a road, there a hospital, here a factory — often does not lead to the progress hoped for.

In the future, at least for the larger ACP countries, long-term planning will have to be prepared by governments, so that the European Community can give advice and provide aid for a specific aim. The ACP governments suspect "neo-colonialism".

The Brussels aim is now to make the ACP states independent and there is no longer talk of integrating the ACP countries into the world economy — in many cases this was misplaced anyway.

More and more the most important feature has become to develop agriculture so that the countries can feed their own people. But this can only be achieved if the ACP governments go along with this and do not discourage their farmers; for example, by setting low fixed-prices for foodstuffs.

Little has been achieved by providing European aid money for drilling boreholes, agricultural schools and the like.

A few ACP states such as Kenya, Mali, Zambia, Rwanda, Niger and Bourkina-Fasso (Upper Volta) have gone along with this new concept. Others still drag their feet, because they want to be able to offer their new proletariat, the people who have flocked to the towns from the countryside, low-cost food. Furthermore they have great hopes of "industrialisation".

Agricultural development and food production are still the top material aims of the new treaty, although there is reference to "industrial cooperation" and certainly this is not excluded.

In this treaty it was much easier to come to an understanding on procedures for programming and processing European Community aid than was the case with the previous two treaties.

Industrialisation projects as the classic form of development aid are in certain instances still regarded as a good thing for the future. For instance turning the island of Mauritius, where there is a shortage of cultivable land, into "a small Singapore". Or in oil producing countries such as Nigeria to develop processing industries.

EC-ACP cooperation is a continuous process of learning. The two negotiators Diarra and Frisch and their small circle of aides still have to find another compromise formulation.

In the two previous treaties, Lomé I and Lomé II, the ACP states refused to give guarantees for private investment in their countries. This time, without too much discussion, they have agreed to this.

The major EC countries such as West Germany, Britain and France have for some time had investment protection agreements with most ACP countries. It is now a question of providing this protection for private investment from the smaller countries, Belgium, Denmark or Luxembourg.

This agreement will work both ways of course, protecting capital investment from Zimbabwe, for instance, in the European Community.

Improvements have been include[d in] the new treaty for imports fro[m] ACP countries into the EEC — 9[…] cent are duty free now.

One of the last outstanding pro[…] involves tuna fish, landed in the F[…] lands by Japanese trawlers, and […] sold to the European communit[y …] free.

As the terms of the agreement […] to all ACP countries, Japanese fish […] is only tinned in the Fiji Islands ca[…] be regarded as an ACP product.

Individual EEC states are consi[der]ably interested in the import advan[tages] enjoyed by ACP states for rice and r[…]

The new agreement will also ex[…] the number of ACP raw materials […] which compensation is paid by the […]ropean Stablex and Sysnin funds w[hen] world prices fall.

According to Lomé II, which la[…] at the end of February 1985, the A[CP] countries should give an account of […] uses to which this money has been […]plied. Not all agree with this.

Since the money comes from E[…] taxpayers the EEC Commission wa[nts the] right to control this money so tha[t it] does not make its way into the pri[vate] pockets of government officials. As[sur]ance is needed that it is in fact pai[d to] the groundnut growers, the tea pla[nters] and others affected by a drop in wo[rld] prices.

Yet here again there is a sensitivi[ty to] any kind of mistrust or patroni[sing] treatment.

But what Diarra and Frisch ca[nnot] solve is the controversial question [of] whether it is possible or not to incre[ase] the DM16 billion set aside by the T[en] for development aid funds over the […] five years.

What is sure, however, is that the […] ACP states (two more than the last t[ime] because of the inclusion of Angola a[nd] Mozambique) will sign the treaty e[arly in] December despite disappointments.

EEC Commissioner Pisani and Di[e]ter Frisch both argue that it would b[e a] beneficial gesture for future coope[ra]tion for the Ten to add voluntarily a[no]ther DM1 billion to the total. For W[est] Germany this would be the risible […] of DM56 million per year.

Erich Hau[…]

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 October […])

The EEC has approved two emergency grants for famine relief in Africa. Between DM45 million and DM70 million has been allocated to Ethiopia and another DM52 million for elsewhere. A United Nations report says prolonged drought has left as many as 35 million people in desperate need of help.

Emergency aid for African famine victims

Kordofan and Darfur in the west of the Sudan have been stricken with drought. In many parts of the country no rain has fallen for several years. Tens of thousands have fled from the region to the east.

According to reports from Cairo, Khartoum is filled to overflowing.

The millet crop, the basic food, has dropped from three million tonnes last year to 1.3 million tonnes, North and south Darfur have been declared an emergency region.

The US has earmarked 82,000 tonnes of grain as emergency aid, but the administration maintains a silence about the situation.

The ten EEC countries have approved two special programmes valued at DM130 million to help the estimated nine million who are starving in Africa. About a half of this money will go to Ethiopia, where six million people have been suffering from starvation.

The EEC Commissioner responsible for development aid programmes Edgar Pisani said at a press conference in Brussels that an emergency aid programme of DM72 million had been earmarked to purchase 100,000 tonnes of grain.

In the next few days an additional DM52 million will be approved, which will be used to buy another 100,000 of grain.

According to the European Community 160,000 tonnes of grain will be arriving in November and December at the Ethiopian port of Assad.

"Theoretically" this will be enough for the six million who are starving who require, it is estimated, 45,000 tonnes a month.

The port can only handle 30,000 tonnes a month, however. And not more than 15,000 tonnes can be distrib[uted] using 6,300 trucks. Transportation c[an]not reach the inaccessible northern p[ro]vinces of Eritrea and Tigre because [of] the war between rebel and governm[ent] soldiers.

Pisani explained that a part of the […] to Ethiopia would not be distributed [by] the Marxist government of Col[onel] Mengistu Haile Mariam, but would [be] handled by the International Red C[ross] that operates in areas not controlled [by] the government. He gave no de[tails] about this division of the aid.

The European Community estim[ates] that in total DM126 million is needed [to] cover urgent needs in Ethiopia and [the] Sahel. Of this sum Ethiopia req[uires] DM63 million, Chad DM13 mi[llion,] Mali, Niger and Mauritania e[ach] DM11.2 million, Upper Volta D[…] million and Senegal DM6.7 million.

Since April the European Comm[un]ity has made available DM180 mi[llion] for thoses areas suffering the worst fr[om] malnutrition, of which DM98.5 mi[llion] has been sent to Ethiopia.

According to Edgar Pisani starvati[on] in Africa is not a temporary tragedy d[ue] to weather conditions but a persist[ent] problem. The European Commu[nity] must come to terms with this.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 31 October 19[84])

■ INDUSTRY

Australian stake in new company formed by big steel merger

[Kr]upp Stahl AG, of Bochum, and [K]löckner Werke AG, of Duisburg, are [to] merge their steel divisions from next [Ja]nuary. The boards of the two firms [ha]ve announced in Düsseldorf that an [Au]stralian mining company, CRA Ltd, [of] Melbourne, will hold a stake in [th]e new venture, which will be the sec[on]d-largest steel firm in Germany. The [Au]stralian company has been closely [as]sociated with Klöckner since the end [of] 1981.

Bankers, politicians and the steel "moderators," as the mediators [a]re dubbed, reckoned with all manner [of] steel industry permutations, but [nev]er that Krupp and Klöckner would [me]rge their steel activities.

Yet that is what is now to happen, if [th]e Monopolies Commission raises no [obj]ections and neither board decides [aga]inst the idea at the last minute, which [se]ems unlikely.

The board chairman of Fried. Krupp [Gm]bH, Dr Wilhelm Scheider, may say [h]e has never suggested this outcome [wa]s impossible. The board chairman of [K]löckner Werke AG, Dr Herbert Gie[no]w, may agree.

In reality everyone in the industry [dis]missed it as not making economic [sen]se.

So why is it now to go ahead? What [t]he parties to the merger really want to accomplish? Distinctions must here be drawn.

Krupp Stahl AG will hold a 35-percent stake in the new company, Klöckner Werke AG 30 per cent and CRA Ltd, of Melbourne, Australia, the remainder. It will trade as Stahlwerke Krupp-Klöckner GmbH.

The Australian company's commitment will have clinched the outcome. Krupp and Klöckner, the two German partners, have been as badly hit as other steelmakers by the structural crisis, distorted by subsidies though it may have been, over the past decade.

It seems reasonable to assume they were sick and tired of the steel crisis and would, in keeping with other European steel executives, not have fought tooth and nail against a sell-out of their steel interests.

That hasn't stopped them from boosting productivity as far as possible, from shutting down works or from developing new processes or improving existing ones.

Yet the signs still are that the merger is a move made in frustration. Both German parent companies will for instance welcome the opportunities presented by retaining only a 35- or 30-per-cent holding in steel.

Their steel activities will automatically no longer need to be included in consolidated balance sheets, which they

Frankfurter Allgemeine

would have been if the holding had been over 50 per cent.

CRA, its executives say, is keen to gain a foothold in the European market. It is a company with a wide range of commodity activities, including lead, zinc, aluminium and coal.

It is the largest Australian mining company and, in particular, a major producer of iron ore, which totalled 46 million tons last year.

The Australian government expects this ore to be processed in Australia. The aim is to export finished products, not raw materials. That was why CRA was on the lookout for new and economic iron and steel production techniques, and in the process it came across Klöckner, whose new developments in metallurgy clearly impressed CRA executives.

For the German economy links with a major foreign commodity supplier can only be an advantage, especially when regular supplies have the extra guarantee provided by the Australian stake in the new German company.

The $64,000 question is what prices CRA is going to charge for its products and whether they in turn will present problems.

There must be no overlooking the fact that CRA has bought into the new company at a bargain price. It is paying for its holding by supplying raw materials to the value of DM525m.

This arrangement seems to testify to the imaginative mind of Klöckner's Dr Gienow, a man who has thought up a number of new ideas in his time.

The entitlement to iron ore deliveries worth DM525m is a balance sheet asset on the strength of which cash can be raised, so it practically amounts to liquidity.

CRA in return has come by a 35-percent stake in a company with annual turnover of DM10bn, which is one result of the years of losses notched up by German steel firms.

How much, after all, can you ask for shares in a company that has debts totalling DM5bn and will start business with DM1.5bn in paid-up capital?

Critics of the merger have said it could not possibly bring about perceptible changes for the better. The Krupp and Klöckner boards in contrast claim they will cut costs by between DM200m and DM250m a year.

That is a substantial amount of money. Can it really be saved? Critics say the plant is too widely spread geographically and too similar. The combination will merely add to and not complement production capacity.

The partners in the merger say the same facts will enable them to allocate orders better geographically, cutting freight costs and getting programmes right (not to mention shutdowns).

The merger seems almost sure to benefit from subsidies, certainly the subsidies already pledged to Krupp and Klöckner. But it would be disastrous if the merger were to lead to yet more subsidies, especially as a major Australian commodity producer would stand to derive indirect benefit.

It remains to be seen whether the parties to the merger will be proved right. Understandably, they are not yet saying where the 3,000 redundancies predicted as a result of one million tons of raw steel and two million tons of rolled steel a year no longer being produced are to be expected.

Equally understandably, staff are ill at ease in a number of works that will form part of the new combine. Political reactions have been swift, with talk of maintaining steelmaking locations even though no-one is in favour of subsidies.

The politicians will have to come to terms with the idea that German steelmakers can only survive if they cut back some of their present capacity.

Every merger in the steel industry is a loss to the free market economy. Structural mergers have been known to result in the larger companies facing even more problems than before.

But how much free market economy survives in an industry in which production and sales are governed by official quotas and company quota specialists do a brisk "trade" in them?

Jobs and contracts are bought and sold. Price guarantees are given and price cutting is bankrolled by means of subsidies.

Helmut Uebbing

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 October 1984)

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casionally stubborn British and the usually pragmatic Americans.

Yet once the review is completed experts are convinced the situation will not have changed fundamentally. Allied rights will still substantially prevail.

There are no signs that the Western Allies have any intention of voluntarily dispensing with their right of consultation (and veto) on senior West Berlin police appointments. That, they say, is a security matter.

They are also unlikely to stop insisting on being consulted for permission to file every industrial standard sheet issued by the DIN industrial standards institute, even though it may only deal with civil aviation components.

Proceedings against two Greenpeace demonstrators who crossed the Wall in a hot-air balloon in August are to be held in November, the Allies (who are responsible for air safety) have ruled.

The GDR has sent them back to the West, but the Allies regard the balloon as a weapon of war and have called for a conviction. In West Berlin balloons weighing over five kilograms are illegal.

Little by little, young people are no longer on their own. Even ageing conservatives have joined forces with them in civil rights campaigning. In the long term, Herr Geulen feels, more and more people will find the situation intolerable.

People in West Berlin, he says, lack even basic human rights the British granted Indians over a century ago.

The city's House of Representatives has called on the Senate to do all it can to stop the Gatow rifle range from being opened. Mayor Diepgen, sensing public feeling, thanked MPs for their support.

At the end of November Catholic and Protestant groups are to march in an oecumenical rally to Gatow to protest against the stockpiling of weapons and holding of manoeuvres that are, they argue, increasingly including the city in a policy of military confrontation.

But maybe that will merely be part of the beginning of a never-ending story.

Otto Jörg Weis

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 October 1984)

THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

Shanghai Volkswagen aims at 20,000 cars a year

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

China's taxi companies and government officials will soon be able to drive round in Volkswagen cars.

The car available will not be the Beetle with which the Wolfsburg operation had so much success in Mexico and Brazil in the 1950s and 1960s, nor its successor the Polo, but the Santana, the top VW model.

This version of the Passat will be rolling off the production line at plant in Shanghai, where 600 vehicles have already been assembled from parts made in West Germany as a trial run. In this way the West German automobile industry has made an important step forward for trading with Asia in the long-term.

The cooperation agreement signed by VW chief Carl Hahn will run for twenty-five years. The agreement that has been much praised, is a fifty-fifty deal in the new company Shanghai-Volkswagen Automative Company Limited (SVW) with an estimated basic capital of DM200 million.

The project involves DM500 million investment and production will be gradually increased year by year until the figure reaches 20,000 vehicles. The proportion of Chinese-manufactured parts will increase from the present 30 per cent to between 80 or 90 per cent.

The second part of the agreement shows that VW believes that the Chinese are competent not only to produce in quantity but also in quality.

The production plant in Shanghai should go into operation by 1986. By the end of 1990 the plant should be producing 100,000 VW four-cylinder engines a year in the diesel and petrol versions. Of these engines 20,000 will be fitted in the Chinese manufactured Santanas and the remainder will be exported to VW connections worldwide.

This means that the VW organisation will be offering the same quality guarantee for their products "Made in China" as those with the tag "Made in Germany".

At a some time in the future further steps in cooperation between the two partners will be negotiated. There is already talk of joint production of 100,000 vehicles per year.

This figure, no matter how it is looked at, from the point of view of demand or Chinese ambitions, is not too high. It is estimated that demand for 1985 is at least 350,000 vehicles. By 1990 Chinese annual production should be 600,000 cars and by the turn of the century it could be 1.2 million, the lion's share of which would be commercial vehicles.

"Dazhong qiche" is the Chinese for Volkswagen, (People's Car) but there is indeed a long way to go before that happens in the most populous country in the world, over a billion.

There are good opportunities in China for all foreign commercial vehicle producers such as Daimler-Benz, the Austrian Steyr-Daimler-Puch and the Japanese firms Nissan Diesel and Isuzu, all or whom are to a lesser or greater extent engaged in negotiations with Peking. This needs a lot of patience.

But there are critics of the VW strategy. Critics ask what will be the situation for West German workers when the Chinese are producing about 90 per cent of the components of the Santanas made in China. Then only ten per cent of the car will need to be imported from abroad in exchange for deliveries of VW engines.

Volkswagen pursued a similar strategy in Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, Spain and Yugoslavia where in every case there was no question of direct exports from West Germany because of the lack of foreign exchange.

The Japanese, who have for a long time been looking for ways of doing big business with China, have tried to sell complete vehicles in direct export, but the Chinese have shown no particular interest in this approach.

The fact that Chinese-West German relations have been good in the war and in the post-war period has played a role here, but their relations with their Japanese neighbours have been bitter.

The situation for the West German automobile industry is quite different in highly industrialised Japan, where there is considerable demand and no currency exchange problem, but much mistrust of competition from the Japanese *automobile industry itself.*

Freighting costs of foreign cars to Japan are high, of course, and higher labour costs are a disadvantage, which is particularly true of West German cars, but they have been relatively successful in the market.

In 1983 there were 35,284 cars imported into Japan, that is only 0.7 per cent of all cars registered, or 1.1 per cent of all new registrations. Of these cars 26,670 came from West German manufacturers.

In the past few years the prestige makes have been able to improve there position considerably. In 1980 there were 3,187 new BMWs registered which increased to 6,298 cars last year, and Mercedes jumped from 3,887 to 6,612 cars in the same period.

BMW has its own sales network, whilst Daimler-Benz has been exclusively represented since 1952 by the general importer Jiro Yanase. This company also sells VWs and Audis and wants to remain loyal to these makes, despite the fact that former VW boss Toni Schmücker concluded a deal with competitors Nissan, by-passing Yanase.

The Nissan plant at Zama will produce 60,000 Santanas annually that will be sold in Japan and South-East Asia via the Nissan sales network.

In the meantime Schmücker's successor Hahn has promised Yanase a slice of this cake. A part of the Sanatanas production will be sold to Japanese customers via the Yanase network which is made up of three warehouses, ten branch offices, 35 dealers and about one hundred subsidiaries.

The top people among Japanese car dealers believe that West German cars are competitive. In Japan a simple Polo costs, it is estimated, DM20,000, an Audi 100 about DM50,000 and an Audi 200 Turbo DM85,000. The top pr[...] is paid for a Mercedes 500 Coupé with extras DM175,000.

With a 75 per cent share of the [...]eign car market West Germany [...] roughly the largest exhibitor at the To[...]kyo Motor Show in October last ye[ar] where 45 West German manufactu[rers'] models were shown.

The purely West German manufa[c]turers have put in a lot of work for th[e] Japanese market of the future – F[...] and Opel from this point of view are [ex]cluded with their American parent c[om]panies.

Both VW and Audi want to doub[le] their sales of almost 13,000 cars [in] 1983 as quickly as possible.

In value terms West German car [ex]ports to Japan are quite modest. [In] 1983 Japan imported cars valued [at] $278 million from West Germany, [but] the Federal Republic imports of Jap[a]nese cars were valued at $900 milli[on]. Although the ratio in the value of e[x]ports to imports is 1 : 3 the ratio in [...] terms is 1 : 10.

According to the experts the oth[er] parts of Asia are coming up swiftly. F[or] years it has been said that the epicent[re] of world trade and manufacturing activ[...]ity will in the future be in the Pacific [...] the triangle Japan, China and the USA.

A glance at the growth rates of Sou[th] East Asian states, China, Japan a[nd] South Korea, and the dynamic states [...] the West, America and Canada, is r[e]vealing. Furthermore there is a recipro[...]cal action between economics and tr[...] and political stability in this area.

People in Asia are industrious a[nd] ready to learn with a natural intellig[...]ence.

There is no other part of the wor[ld] that has the pre-requisites for an eco[n]omic upswing as in Asia.

The Ascan developings countries – Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indo[ne]sia and the Philippines – that will ha[ve] a real growth rate of between seven a[nd] eight per cent up to the year 2000 a[re] important for the West German econo[...]my in the future. This is true even [...] there is a shortage of exchange for th[e] import of consumer and capital goo[ds] for the masses, such as cars.

All these countries need commerc[ial] vehicles. Daimler-Benz already has [a] foot in the door with plant in Indones[ia]. In the threshold countries, those on th[e]

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A great leap forward. VWs in China.

(Photo: [...])

Broke Zündapp motorcycle firm sold to Chinese bicycle maker

Allgemeine Zeitung

A Chinese People's Republic bicycle maker has paid DM16 million for the bankrupt Munich motor cycle manufacturer, Zündapp.

The Zündapp creditors' trustee told creditors that the deal would make possible a high payout of 60.1 per cent on preferred claims of DM37 million.

These claims plus the main debts and costs could now be covered.

The creditors' trustee said that preferred claims totalled DM11.25 million, main debts and costs DM18.9 million.

The main total was made up of these along with DM9 million for social benefits, wages and salaries.

The purchaser's factory is at Tianjin, about 120 kilometres from Peking.

An Iranian state-owned company had also expressed interest in Zündapp. A deal had almost been struck, but it fell through because the DM15 million that had been agreed on in the contract was not paid into a West German bank.

Zündapp will produce 600 mopeds up to the end of November. The creditors' trustee expects that this longer production period will increase the bankruptcy by DM2.38 million.

If the spare parts warehouse with parts for four years is taken into account there is a net loss of DM4 million.

Individual sales of the cut-priced 10,491 mopeds that are in store will bring in DM11.71 million.

Zündapp employs 551. By the beginning of next year the labour force will be reduced to 184. DM12 million has been earmarked for redundancy pay.

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 27 October 1984)

Things are looking up at Calar Alto.

(Photo: Zeiss)

RESEARCH

Huge optical telescope ready to probe remote secrets of the universe



[A]t the end of September construc[t]ion of the Calar Alto observatory, [at] an altitude of 2,150 metres (7,050ft) [in] Andalusia, was completed.

The new 3.5-metre telescope, [c]laimed to be the most up-to-date of its [k]ind in the world, uses Zerodur ceram[ic] glass, made by Schott of Mainz.

The manufacturers proudly say the [s]urface is so smooth that it is nowhere [m]ore than one and a half hundred [t]housandths of a millimetre out of true.

The telescope was built by Carl [Ze]iss, of Oberkochen, near Stuttgart. [It] uses such advanced technology that [it] can be converted for any use in less [th]an half an hour.

Uses range from primary focus, [1]2.25 metres, at which extremely po[or]ly-lit objects can be swiftly identifi[ed], to Cassegrain focus, 35 metres, and [C]oudé focus, 122.5 metres, which is [use]d for observation of high-resolu[tion] spectres.

This wide range of uses conveys [so]me idea of the many astronomical is[sues] on which the Calar Alto telescope [can] be put to work: from research into [th]e origins of stars to the observation [of] remote active galaxies.

The new facility, run jointly by Spain [an]d the Max Planck Institute of As[tro]nomy, Heidelberg, was presented to [vi]sitors by Hans Elsässer, head of the [He]idelberg institute.

Astronomers, he said, had lately [ma]de similar discoveries in both sec[tor]s. They differed merely in dimen[sio]n. He was referring to strange jets of matter flowing in opposite directions over the polar regions of the heavenly bodies probed.

The first pointers to the existence of these jets in remote active galaxies were discovered by astronomers decades ago. They were later identified in pictures of a number of far-off quasars, or quasi-stellar objects.

Advances in radiotelescopy finally enabled scientists to improve resolution sufficiently to demonstrate the existence of such jets in a number of galaxies.

A comparable phenomenon also occurs when stars are born, but that could not be demonstrated until infrared astronomy was sufficiently advanced.

In this sector the Heidelberg astronomers have carried out pioneering work since the mid-1970s when the first, 1.2-metre telescope was set up on Calar Alto.

Infra-red detectors are an indispensable part of any bid to shed light on how stars are born.

They first take shape from cold gas and dust clouds of inter-stellar matter. So in their early days, and growth phase, they still emit very low temperatures.

Not until later, when the central region has grown dense enough for nuclear fusion to occur, does a heavenly body of this kind emit any kind of visible light.

Yet for outside observers it remains invisible for the time being because it is obscured by a dense and extensive cloud of gas and dust that largely retains optical radiation.

But stellar light heats the dust cloud, so the cloud in its turn emits infra-red radiation that can at times be identified on earth.

By this stage the surrounding cloud of matter has often been flattened out to the shape of a disc encircling the new star's equator.

Many scientists feel that is a decisive phase in the possible emergence of a planetary system. A jet of particles, or kind of stormy stellar wind, emitted from the star is thus most readily ejected from the polar caps and leaves the star's atmosphere from there.

As visible light is only slightly weakened at this point, these "pillars of smoke" are additionally illuminated and can then be observed from earth. They are called bipolar nebulas.

Detailed measurements taken using the 2.2-metre Calar Alto telescope have shown that matter streams forth at speeds of several hundred kilometres per second.

In spite of similarities with the jets of matter emitted from the hearts of active galaxies no-one seriously believes there can be a comparable explanation to account for this phenomenon.

Instead, there are many indications that matter is catapulted from within the galaxy by a black hole, or extremely dense concentration of matter with truly exotic properties.

The intense power of attraction on the "surface" of a black hole is so powerful that not even light can escape.

When a black hole is located at the centre of a galaxy it can absorb matter from its surroundings and generate such a maelstrom that powerful magnetic fields may well be created that catapult collapsing matter vertically up, down and out.

Professor Elsässer and his fellow-astronomers hope to gather further data on this phenomenon using the new 3.5-metre telescope.

At present it is the largest optical telescope in Europe, but it won't be holding on to the title for long. A 4.2-metre telescope is under construction in Britain for use in the Canary Islands in a few years' time.

That will by no means mark the end of developments in large-size optical telescopes.

The Mount Palomar telescope in the United States has a diameter of five metres, but is outmoded in being made of sensitive borosilicate glass and having a simple optical structure.

Another telescope in the Soviet Union has a diameter of six metres but can only be put to limited use.

Technicians and astronomers are on the point of designing modern optical telescopes with diameters more than twice those of the largest and best at present in use.

Project studies have been carried out by several US observatories and by staff of the European Southern Observatory.

Unlike conventional telescopes, the new designs seldom envisage single reflectors cast in one piece.

One alternative is to put together a reflector consisting of many individual sections. Another is to arrange several smaller ones in series.

A telescope along these lines, with six reflectors, each 1.8 metres in diameter, has been in use on Mount Hopkins, Arizona, since 1979.

There are even plans to link up individual telescopes and align them as a system.

Schott, the Mainz glassworks, whose centenary year it is, have earned a high reputation with the three reflectors supplied to Calar Alto, so much so that enquiries from the United States have been received.

They have already produced their first samples for the most advanced project in the new generation of telescopes.

Hermann-Michael Hahn

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 12 October 1984)

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[...] between developing and industrialised countries – Hong Kong, Taiwan [an]d South Korea – there is a strong [ma]rket for high-priced, luxury cars, [wi]th an upper and middle class with [pl]enty of purchasing power. This de[spi]te the fact that Taiwan and South [Ko]rea are busy developing a domestic [ca]r manufacturing industry.

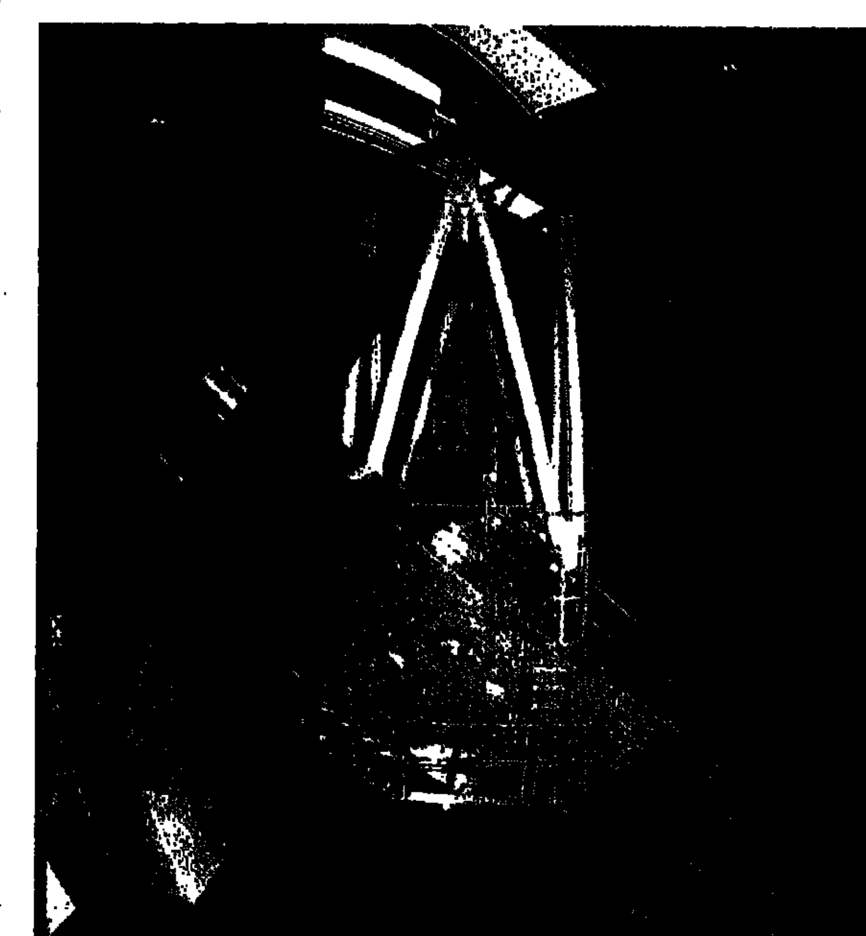
It goes without saying that inexpen[si]ve Japanese cars dominate all these [m]arkets, which is obvious to every [W]est German tourist or businessman [wh]o has been in this part of the world. [N]evertheless the West German indus[tr]y has been able to maintain a stable, [al]though modest, market share.

Many taxi companies swear by Mer[ce]des-Benz diesel cars. The fact that [W]est Germany is a long way away from [th]ese markets is in the main no disad[van]tage in satisfaying demand.

The Japanese automobile indutry has shown that it is possible to do good [bu]siness in these parts.

Helmut Berger

(Rheinische Merkur/Christ und Welt, 19 October 1984)



Stargazing at its ultimate. The 3.5-metre Calar Alto telescope.

(Photo: MPG)

■ EDUCATION

German-studies crisis: decision to go from particularly awful to better

DIE ZEIT

University appointments were made in large numbers in the heyday of German studies conferences, from 1966 to 1975.

German studies dons were spoilt by this job glut. They avoided profane reality, basked in conceit and were so presumptuous that they didn't bother watching their professional reputation as university teachers.

Those days have now gone. In Hamburg in 1979 and in Aachen three years later the custodians of German language and letters met in surroundings of splendour — amid forecasts that a crisis was brewing in their field.

However, their gatherings were more reminiscent of a meeting of old boys than of conferences of experts keen to make important communications to a wider public.

They seemed to have completed the retreat into the ivory tower of Academe when it was announced that the 1984 *Germanistentag* was to be held in Passau.

No-one might have any objections to holding the conference in Bavaria, but did it have to be at the farthest end of the country, in a small university town on the Austrian border?

What are university teachers of German studies doing today after having been accustomed to preparing over 90 per cent of their students for a career in teaching?

Are they withdrawing from civilisation of any kind to recover from the virtual amputation of this mainstay of their work now the job prospects for teachers are so poor?

Established German studies dons are in many cases preoccupied with themselves, whereas junior lecturers are busy getting their names in print by penning fine-sounding articles that deal at length with issues of no great importance.

The conference was held at Passau University, which is a recent foundation, has only 4,000 students and prides itself on offering courses in modern languages specialising in law and economics.

In Passau, of all places, the German Studies Association finally changed course — a change that was long overdue.

Over 600 members came from all over the country to take part in the proceedings. Their sheer weight of numbers was a heavy burden on the organisers.

A number of leading *Germanisten* may not have attended, but only the Bavarian German studies professors seem to have boycotted the gathering.

How ironic it was that the only participant whose name was Bayer (which in German means "Bavarian") came from Hanover and was so elitist and conservative in his views on linguistics and language-learning that many will not forget his words in a hurry.

In a democracy, he said, with a glance at the present government in Bonn, it was essential to maintain high linguistic standards in speech and writing.

So it was only natural to acknowledge social inequalities reflected in linguistic competence.

Many lecturers were so appalled that they were not of a mind to reply to such wholesale assessments. "If that is how the younger generation feels," they said, "God help us all."

The choice of opening speaker indicated a fresh trend toward politicisation of German studies. It was Eberhard Lämmert, former president of the Free University, West Berlin. Professor Lämmert was the man who with Conrady, Killy and von Polenz stated at the 1966 Munich *Germanistentag* that German studies shared a historic guilt and responsibility for the Nazi regime.

"It is up to us to show the general public," he said this time in view of the "prescribed ruin" of German studies by means of official curriculum planning, "that they cannot afford to lose an entire generation of young academics in the arts disciplines."

The conference was overshadowed by the news of one don's suicide, due, as it partly seems to have been, to the economic straits of a number of university lecturers.

They are men and women with the highest university qualifications available in Germany yet face the prospect of unemployment. The state that provided them with their career openings has now deprived them of any further prospects.

Georg Stötzel, previously in charge of the association's university teachers section, outlined plans for an information exchange to forestall the worst for 40-year-old profs with families and no jobs.

Dr Schutte of the National Union of Teachers, himself a university lecturer threatened with unemployment, addressed the conference on *Germanisten* without jobs.

In his view the widespread lethargy of German studies teachers who, instead of opposing cuts, reluctantly but in the final analysis almost obediently comply with each and every Ministerial decree, can be attributed to a latent feeling that their subject is basically superfluous.

That, he said, was why support had been impossible to mobilise in recent years. But to say nothing was to see the subject either as something exotic or as one in which established views were abjectly endorsed.

But that would be to market the part of German studies that is marketable and to quietly ignore the rest.

Those who were not prepared to wait until the administration had solved the problems of German studies in its own sweet way would have to consider who they should be teaching.

German studies were very much in keeping with the public feeling that education was needed, especially the feeling shared by those who suffered from their inability to look after their interests because they couldn't read and w... properly or suffered from the prog... sive destruction of their powers of ... ception.

Yet German studies were unable ... cater for these needs because they ... failed in their academic task of arri... at ways and means of communica... with this clientele.

Literature and literary studies m... not be for the state but for readers ... the reading public of the future. Exte... ing and widening the democratic base ... readers in society was the most impo... ant task for German studies with ... such pretensions.

In a resolution to *Land* Educatio... and Finance Ministers the associati... appealed, registered and requested b... never once summoned the courage ... demand.

One speaker, Bernard Weisgerbe... expressed regret that Ministry offici... had never got off so lightly even tho... they were largely to blame for the ca... amitous state of affairs.

The association's new president, N... bert Oellers, said: "I am afraid the si... tion will not improve in time for the ne... *Germanistentag*, so we will need to sh... greater solidarity and be more act... than ever in public.

"The next conference could be a se... mi-political one. Passau was planned ... a quarter-political gathering. It has ... been entirely successful in this respect.

"That is arguably due to the oblig... nature and need for harmony felt b... many colleagues. They have made ... problems we face particularly glaring."

Hartmut Urban

(Die Zeit, 26 October 1984)

Women's injured pride put to creative use

Heidelberg, city of the Student Prince, has just hosted an unusual congress, the three-day international congress of women philosophers.

Over 200 women from many European countries with careers in philosophy attended.

One topic discussed was the anthropogenesis of woman (an allusion to Friedrich Engels' essay on The Role of Work in the Anthropogenesis of the Ape).

They were unaffected by academic inflexibility and engaged in philosophical debate vividly and with a sense of personal commitment.

Women continue to suffer from discrimination in university appointments. They are not hiding their sense of hurt but are proving steadily more capable of putting it to creative use.

Is there such a thing as feminine philosophy? Is reason in any way dependent on sex? The conference did not shirk these provocative issues in its quest for an identity of their own.

Manon Maren-Griesbach, of Heidelberg, stressed at the outset that they had no intention of setting up fresh barriers. The few men in the audience were happy to hear it.

But there could be equally little doubt, as Annegret Stopczyk, of Berlin, demonstrated with reference to Kant, that on closer scrutiny the seemingly neutral concept of reason is patriarchal.

Philosophy also has a longstanding tradition of attaching little value to women. The prejudice that women are morally and intellectually second-rate has its roots in the Ancient Greek Pandora myth.

Dutch philosopher Maja Pellikaan-Engel recalled the pre-Socratic philosopher Hesiod, who said women descended from Pandora, who had brought destruction down on mankind. Aristotle, the founder of Western metaphysics, can be identified as the source of most surviving prejudices about male and female.

A particularly deterrent example of this traditional misogyny was dissected by Hannelor Schröder, of Amsterdam, who dealt with Otto Weiniger's infamous book *Geschlecht und Charakter* (Sex and Character), 1903.

Frau Schröder's analysis of his mode of thought rightly drew comparisons between anti-feminism and anti-semitism.

Margaretha Huber, of Munich, went on to the attack. "Feminine philosophy exists," she proclaimed. It was particularly apparent where the woman philosopher seemed to be "out of her mind."

The superfluous and mysterious that might be destroyed solely by being voiced embodied the idea of feminine thinking. It was a language that was, perhaps, speechless but not insensible.

What that was meant to imply was apparent not only from the papers on aesthetics and imagination, including meditation, painting and the "philosophical poems" of Waltraud Herold, of Pfullingen.

Elisabeth List, of Graz, illuminated in her caustic criticism of the "ascetic Eros" of science how a philosophy that no longer bore male traits might look.

The taboo in respect of the personal was "the blind spot on the sensitive retina of the scientific eye," she said. Nietzsche had suspected that "love ... truth" in science was only a covert v... iation on the "desire for power."

The "divine spark" of the invent... and what Hegel called the "tendenc... for temporal things" ought, she said, ... future to characterise "science as a pe... sonal experience."

Monique David-Ménard, of Paris, went even further, outlining a philo... phy of love with reference to Plato's Symposion. She impressively demo... strated how differently this classical w... could be read.

Michel Foucault saw it as describing the major role played by homosexuality in the birth of philosophy in Ancient Greece. Luce Irigaray arrived at an e... tirely different conclusion.

A psychoanalytically-oriented structuralist, she sees love as a "de... mon" and the link between being asleep and awake, between gods and men.

"To conceive and to model, but not to receive, reduce or consume" was the ba... sic approach of mediatory love. Libido was a paradoxical reality that could not be dealt with solely in terms of psycho... analysis.

To think in terms of libido or instinct without viewing sexual distinctions as fundamental was the task of a modern phi... losophy that had abjured abstraction.

Unusual though topics and the way they were dealt with were at the con... gress, the fundamental approach was familiar. Women philosophers in no way deny how much they owe to the philosophical tradition.

But they only want to salvage the be... of its heritage. Anthropogenesis re... mains a daunting task facing the entire human species, a task in which we dare not fail.

Papers read at the Heidelberg con... gress are to be published in book form.

Wolfgang Schirmacher

(Der Tagesspiegel, 26 October 1984)

■ THE CINEMA

The children's film returns despite the chewing gum

RHEINISCHE POST

There are several reasons to do with finance for cinema owners not to get involved with children's films.

One is the amount of cleaning up that needs to be done afterwards — lemonade cans, wrapping paper, chewing gum. That costs money.

Late in the 1950s, there was a shortage of children's films, but television arrived to fill the gap.

West Germany has had to wait 20 years for a revival of children's films.

This is a long time and in the meantime the infrastructure of cinemas has changed considerably, so that commercial cinema for children disappeared.

In the 1970s, however, a network of non-commercial cinemas developed, although the cinema world as such remained aloof from this network.

Nevertheless with a minimum of cash available and with the aid of television a pile of films were produced and the pile continues to grow.

So the children's film festival in Frankfurt, the tenth, was used as a forum to display the development of children's films in West Germany, giving a survey of what had been done over the past five years. It was also used as an occasion to exchange experience and ideas between the various interest groups.

The activities of the West German youth film centre in Remscheid should was also discussed.

The children still crowd to see the films as ever, and the inclusion of a wider public is not required so far. The specialists remain close to one another.

How does the West German children's film look now since Hark Bohm's typical films were shown in cinemas? He produced *Tschetan, der Indianerjunge* (Tschetan, the Indian boy) and *Nordsee ist Mordsee* (The North Sea is a sea for murder).

There were good things and bad things about these two new West German films for children. They were both pacemakers of the genre and made their way into cinemas.

Lisa und die Riesen (Lisa and the Giants) by Thomas Draeger was a departure from the new tradition in children's films and developed parallel, to the routine experiences of the 54-year-old Lisa a second fairytale level of story-telling, a playground for giants.

This had an escapist quality but it also disclosed a child's potential for fantasy which is indispensible for a child in later life.

Thomas Draeger achieved what is rare in films for children — he captured the magical detailed view of children by giving poety to everyday life and describing Lisa's inner life in a refined film language.

Arend Agthe was more in line with trends in his *Flußfahrt mit Huhn* (River trip with a Hen) that teems with stories about journeys.

This dashing film, full of jokes, tells the story of a trip upstream with a group of children and their grandfather who is looking after them. The film is like a series made for television.

This story, always full of ideas, is well above the average in the West German children's film where there is often a lack of professionalism.

This is not surprising since films for children, as with children's theatre, is regarded as the area where beginners can learn their trade.

The general development of children's film is linked to television viewing and so tends to be in line with this media, and there was a lot to be said about educating children so that they would later be cinema-goers.

Internationally the West German film for children cuts a poor figure. *Der kleine Band* (The small ribbon), by Michel Delville of France was awarded the second prize by the jury, this year made up of children for the first time. Its story line and originality made it the most balanced film of the festival.

This again is the story of a group of run-away children. The leader is a deaf and dumb boy. This was beautifully contrived in the film which is totally without dialogue. It is like a filmed picture book with sound effects and music.

It is a modern fairystory with slapstick and wonderful escapes from an adult world, alien to children, but which is only achieved with the aid of good spirits and which depends above all on the children's fantasy.

The contents of the story gives the children time, like adults, to enter into the tale, to use their own imagination.

The New Zealand contribution by Yvonne Mackjay, *Der Stumme* (The Mute) was awarded the first prize, showing quite clearly what children are used to seeing these days and what children expect from a film.

Impressive underwater photography provides an excess of technical excellence, the Polynesian idyl gives nostalgia and the picture-postcard frames pander to eyes used to advertising spots on television.

Convincing

The story of the friendship with a tortoise is told sympathetically and the young boy is convincing.

Keith Merrill's film *Windwalker* from America is a classic Indian film with Trevor Howard in the main role of the dispirited, old Indian. This is a view of the Indian way of life that tells much of the origins of Indian culture.

Jörg Foth from East Germany provided a classic children's film with *Das Eismeer ruft* (The Polar Sea Calls), dealing with a rescue operation for a group of children from Prague. They are also runaways.

Alsino und der Condor, by the Chilean exile Miguel Littin, the first film from Nicaragua, shows aspects of a fantastic realism, which is then lost in agitation.

There are cruel shooting scenes that point up the distance clearly etween children in Europe and the battle for survival in Central and South America.

It is hard to find a place for this in the category films for children.

Marli Feldvoss

(Rheinische Post, 27 October 1984)

Stars at the Hof festival: Hunter Carson (left) and Harry Dean Stanton in Wim Wender' *Paris, Texas*. (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

Protest registered: the dog that had its day in Paris, Texas



Heinz Badewitz played his trump card on the first day of the 18th Hof film festival. He screened Wim Wenders' prize-winning *Paris, Texas*.

Controversy has surrounded the film in this country where it will not be shown until 11 January next year. The premiere in West Germany with the original English version was greeted with considerable respect.

Protest emerged in the repeat performance. A small dog, smuggled in by a young man under his coat, began suddenly to bark. Dog and man were hustled out of the cinema without ceremony.

But perhaps this dog had something to say about the Golden Palm winner from Cannes. The animal was possibly not alone in its criticism. Emotion and boredom are closely related reactions, particularly when a film is too long as is this one.

The Hof film festival calls for action. Hof has the youngest and most spontaneous public of all the Federal Republic's film festivals.

A horror film that begins at two o'clock in the morning is just right for the cineasts at this festival. Here the film was first recognised as a communal experience. Beer is in the fridge that is close to the screen, and if you want to smoke, you smoke.

Hof can claim to have found a place in the West German cinema league, and not only because of the traditional football match between film-makers, with Werner Herzog as centre forward, and a team chosen from Hof.

The Hof film festival knows all about rising-stars, those on the downward path, camp-followers and Heinz Badewitz is to the modern German film what Franz Beckenbauer is to soccer.

Nevertheless it is essential to be careful that the film one wants to see is the right one. The 80 performances are numbered. Only the number appears on the entrance ticket. In the language of Hof one is asked: "Have you seen 17? It was not up to much, but 63 should be good. Unfortunately 25 is sold out."

There are many worthwhile films at Hof, concealed behind these numbers.

Badewitz caters for all tastes in his festival programme, and he believes it can also be entertaining.

By far the best at this year's festival was the British comedy, *The Missionary*, by Richard Loncraine. The script was written by Michael Palin from the Monty Python stable, and he smartly plays the title role, a man of the cloth who, at the turn of the century, tries to bring back to the straight and narrow ladies of easy virtue, and himself suffers the temptations of the flesh. The story comes from George Bernard Shaw.

Hollywood Outtakes is almost tragicomic, made up of film cuts and advertising spots picked up from the cutting room floor.

Here of all places James Dean calls for a speed limit, and Joan Crawford presents herself as a splendid mother.

These cuts, showing untruthfulness and glamour present a parade of stars that no film fan can afford to miss.

Future visitors to the Hof film festival should first of all make a long trip through America for this year a half of the films are in English or American English, and mostly in language that can only be learned on the streets.

The outstanding film of the festival was a documentary *Il bacio di Tosca* (Tosca's kiss), made by the Swiss Daniel Schmid, a film dealing with the people who live in the Casa Verdi in Milan, founded by the composer, a home for old musicians and singers, and which is now threatened with closure.

The old prima donnas cannot forget. They still sing Tosca, although they should long have gone up to another story, like those who were around when they made their first appearance on the stage.

One summed it up for all of them: "I shall still sing, even when I am dead."

Schmid's film is an individual expression of love for the opera and at the same time a beautiful opera film. Those who frequent the great opera houses of the country should not miss it.

Bernd Plagemann

(Die Welt, 29 October 1984)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

The winds of dirty change come to Münsterland

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Few parts of Germany seem more rural and unspoilt than the Münster area in Westphalia.

Münsterland is fields, woods and meadows where cows peacefully graze and birds of prey lazily circle overhead.

You feel cosseted in easygoing Westphalian ways. People here don't like swift change. It is an area where tradition still counts for something, and you can sense the fact.

The moated castles and country houses have often been owned by the same family for centuries. Old town centres nestle round Romanesque churches. Country families have looked after their wayside shrines for generations.

It would seem to be an idyll far removed from the industrial age. But in reality it is a threatened idyll, not to say a deceptive one.

In countries like the Federal Republic of Germany industry does not stop short at a nature reserve, and even though there may be no smokestacks in the green agricultural countryside, dirt is ever-present.

The prevailing wind comes from the Ruhr to the west, and acid rainfall in the Münsterland is destroying in decades what has braved the elements, fire and war for centuries.

The stone memorials of a bygone age are disintegrating and falling apart. In the end all that is left will be either a cultural wasteland or a collection of copies.

The German National Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments arranged a Press tour of the Münsterland area because the shock of seeing crumbling masonry is greater against such a serene and natural background.

Scientists may not yet be sure to what extent acid rain is to blame for forest damage, but it is definitely to blame for crumbling masonry.

Sulphur dioxide from industrial smokestacks is the reason why old churches and castles are falling apart, statues seem to be losing their shape and stained glass is dulled.

This is how the process of destruction works: Carbonic acid and, in particular, sulphur dioxide are pumped into the atmosphere in smoke from fossil fuels.

Carbonic acid dissolves chalk, a bonding agent, in stone. Sulphur dioxide combines with water as sulphuric acid, which changes chalk into plaster.

Plaster increases the volume of the stone, and plaster, as everyone knows, is a loose material that can be hard hit by bad weather, especially rain.



Accelerating damage. Crumbling gravestones at Weinsberg.
(Photo: Wolfgang W...)

It is a twofold effect. The stone crumbles within, whereas on the surface it is initially solidified by the chalk and plaster.

As a result the damp can no longer make its way out of the stone. Changes in temperature, ice formation and the increase in volume caused by plaster lead to surface decay, and the higher the chalk content of stone, the greater the destruction.

Medieaval stained glass in churches is in similar danger. It is glass with a high alkali count, which in normal weather makes it more liable to wear and tear than either modern glass or glass from the Ancient World.

Atmospheric pollution has accelerated the decay alarmingly. The alkali is rinsed out, settles with carbonates and sulphates from the atmosphere on the surface of the glass and start to disintegrate it.

The top layer is washed away, and then the process is repeated until no more undamaged glass is left. The stained glass has already grown dull and no longer allows light in through the window-pane.

The tale is the same as with stone monuments. The process of decay, which for centuries progressed at a measured pace, has increased alarmingly since 1900 and, in particular, over the past 30 years.

At wits' end

A 19th century church can be as badly hit as a 12th century one, proving the point.

Officials in charge of historic monuments are bitter and at their wits' end when they see how a monument restored 10 or 20 years ago is already showing fresh signs of decay.

What point is there in their work, they wonder. Is it not self-deception to "retread" old buildings stone by stone so that they are eventually mere copies of the original, or even copies of copies?

Action is taken to salvage the original, it is true. There is no tradition of stained glass restoration, so all that can usually be done is to provide a protective coat of glass to protect the original from the outside air. But not all statues, let alone buildings, can be kept indoors.

Many techniques of protecting masonry from decay have been experimented with — often, in the past, with the result that the process was accelerated.

Waterproof materials on a silicone basis are now felt to prevent harmful substances from penetrating stone. A compound of silicic acid is felt to reconstitute crumbling masonry.

That, admittedly, is merely treating the symptoms and slowing down the pace of decay. Prompt and energetic action to reduce atmospheric pollution is the only hope of an effective remedy.

Even then, many historic monuments will be beyond repair. Officials often feel left very much to their own devices because they seldom have access to scientific know-how.

This irreparable decay is certainly a strong likelihood as regards the wayside shrines that are such a distinctive feature of Roman Catholic parts of the country.

In Westphalia they are a popular art form, and many owners invest heavily in their upkeep. There are nearly 60,000 stone shrines in Münster and environs dating from the Middle Ages to the 1950s.

Seldom are they individually major works of art, but in their entirety they are a distinctive feature of the region. But they are unlikely to remain one for long.

Ninety per cent of them are in an advanced state of decay, and all over Westphalia you can see for yourself how first the faces are disfigured, then the entire statue.

The same is true of statues forming part of country houses and churches. What can be done? Should one try to conserve them in their present state of decay or renew, and thereby falsify them?

It is a strange feeling to stand in front of monumental buildings such as castles and churches that seem to have been built for ever and to know that they have long been beset by creeping decay.

You scratch the stone, a very symbol of eternity, and sand starts to trickle.

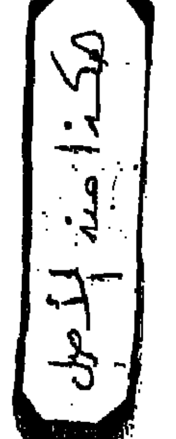
Soest Cathedral is a massive Romanesque church that seems to embody Westphalian solidity. Restoration work was completed in 1976, but the masonry is already showing fresh signs of decay.

What, one wonders, can possibly last for ever if a building such as St Patrokli is disintegrating?

Figures are involved, not just facts. The Bonn Interior Ministry estimates damage to historic monuments and buildings due to atmospheric pollution at well over DM300m.

Historic monuments are not alone in

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MEDICINE

Radiation in treating children's illnesses

Allgemeine Zeitung MAINZ

Uses of radioactive substances in diagnosis and treatment of children's complaints were discussed at a paediatric nuclear medicine forum in Mainz.

Chaired by Professor K. Hahn, head of nuclear medicine at Mainz University hospital, it was the fourth congress on the subject held in Mainz since 1978.

Over 100 people took part: paediatricians, specialists in nuclear medicine and radiologists from Germany and neighbouring countries.

They were briefed on new processes in nuclear medicine, tests of organ functions, and their practical importance for children's doctors.

This reflected a new departure in nuclear medicine. Nuclear medicine and X-rays used to be the only means doctors had of looking inside the patient's body, as it were.

Children's doctors nowadays rely more on ultrasonic techniques that entail no radiation risk to the sick child.

The situation may have changed in this respect, but all nuclear medicine techniques currently available still have meaningful uses, as a platform debate between hospital and practising paediatricians, radiologists and specialists in nuclear medicine showed.

They particularly include pictorial display of organic functional disorders; nuclear medicine remains the only way of probing them.

One new technique presented — and praised — in Mainz was a means of investigating ventilation problems of the lung.

The patient inhales a minute quantity of radioactive crypton 81 gas. As it disintegrates the crypton atoms emit gamma rays registered by a special camera and converted into a picture of the lung.

The picture reveals parts of the lung that are not ventilated inasmuch as on inhalation the radioactive crypton has failed to reach them.

But as the gas has a very short halflife, the radioactive crypton atoms virtually all disintegrate within a minute.

So the radiation hazard in children's lungs is very slight, with exposure limited to a very short period, which is particularly important where children are concerned.

Nuclear diagnosis and treatment of tumours was another topic dealt with in detail at the congress.

Radioactive substances are fed into the metabolic system of tumours of, say, the nervous system, making the tumour visible and, when a larger dose is administered, destroying it.

Nerve tumours of this kind occur fairly often in children and seldom or never among adults.

Great store is set by treatment with radioactively-marked antibodies. This year's Nobel Prize for medicine was awarded for the production of monoclonal antibodies.

Special antibodies react directly to tumour cells and attach themselves to them. When the antibodies are "marked" with radioactive substances the tumour can both be made visible and destroyed.

The technique has yet to be used in practice, but in this and other sectors of nuclear medical research, scientific progress can be expected to make swift headway.

Isabella Milch

(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 23 October 1984)

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being affected by acid rain. Modern industrial architecture and housing is also

The same report estimates annual restoration costs at DM3bn to DM4bn, which are naturally met by the property-owners and not by those who are to blame for the acid rain.

Dying forests can arguably be replaced. A work of art that has been destroyed by pollution cannot be replaced at any cost.

Ekkehard Röhm

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 October 1984)

Medical hypnosis can halt some cases of cancer, doctor says

A German doctor, Franz Anton Mesmer, discovered "animal magnetism" 200 years ago, describing it as a "beneficial fluid" that could be transferred from one person to another.

Now known as hypnotism, it was often used before surgery until chloroform, the first pain-killer, was discovered.

But the 400 psychologists, doctors and students who met in Munich for the "first German-language hypnosis congress" had little to do with classical hypnosis.

Classical hypnosis is here assumed to mean a hypnotist mesmerising a patient, sending him to sleep, telling him he is healthy and having him wake up cured.

Medical hypnosis as now understood still makes use of the state of trance but is mainly used to reactivate lessons the patient has learnt in the past and to use them to help with the cure.

In the United States two doctors in three are trained in hypnotherapy. In its country of origin it still leads very much of a shadowy existence, as the German Hypnosis Association sadly admits.

Findings overseas show that hypnotherapy can be extremely useful in treating cancer patients in particular. Bernauer W. Newton,a US doctor who has practised hypnosis at his institute in Los Angeles for 10 years, briefed the Munich congress on his experience.

Cancer patients given hypnotherapy had, he said, a life expectancy up to four times higher than the national survival average.

Lung cancer patients, for instance, normally had another six months to live. Treated with hypnosis, their life expectancy was up to two years.

The figures for stomach cancer victims were 11 and 40 months respectively. "Many patients," Dr Newton said, "really do seem to gain measurably from a few weeks' treatment."

He is convinced hypnotherapy is in some cases capable of bringing the cancer to a halt.

Hypnosis could not, said Burkhard Peter of the Hypnosis Association, be practised separately from other methods of medical treatment.

It wasn't a panacea, merely a flanking measure for patients whose physical and mental health enabled them to be treated in this way.

Hypnotherapy was particularly suitable for activating the will to live and to survive, for mobilising the body's defences and for stabilising individual performance.

Medical hypnosis can be put to a wide range of uses, the congress was told. They include treatment for anxiety states, for psychosomatic disorders in the stomach and intestines and for chronic states of pain.

Holger Sattler

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 17 October 1984)

Interferon 'not hoped-for wonder drug'

Interferon is not the wonder drug is has been made out to be, and especially not in the treatment of cancer, doctors have warned.

A researcher at the German cancer research centre, Professor Holger Kirchner, told the third international interferon congress that the great breakthrough had not been made.

Kari Cantell, of the Finnish national health institute in Helsinki, said: "Interferon is no wonder drug."

The four-day conference in Heidelberg was organised by the international society for interferon research, the Dutch organisation for applied research (TNO), and the German cancer research centre.

Delegates discussed the hopeful signs for cancer treatment and the use of interferon against virus infections.

Interferon was discovered in 1957 and high hopes were held for its capacity to fight cancer. Expectations were enormous.

But delegates' papers reflected more realistic attitudes.

The late Shah of Iran had made great efforts to obtain interferon, but it had not been much help to him.

The drug is produced in cells that have been infected with a virus. It involves a highly effective protein substance that protects other cells from the infection.

There are three known types of human interferon. These in turn have many sub types. They can be produced cheaply and in great amounts through genetic engineering.

Professor Else Heidemann,of Tübingen, emphasised that interferon treatment had already been established for several viral illnesses. It had also been successfully used to treat shingles; illnesses caused by colds; and brain inflammation.

It was also reported that interferon has, in combination with other virusretarding substances, achieved shortterm cures for the eye illness, herpes keratitis.

The use of interferon with illnesses of the nervous system which are possibly caused by viruses — for example multiple sclerosis — was also raised.

Multiple sclerosis research over the past five years had shown that interferon could halt the progress of the disease.

dpa

(Die Welt, 27 October 1984)

■ HORIZONS

The Disco Kid: Berlin has a rock music commissioner

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Coloured stickers are plastered all over the door, hinting that this office on the 17th floor of the Europa-Center in West Berlin is no ordinary common-or-garden administration centre.

It labours under the title: Department for the promotion of cultural activities by free groups.

The man behind both the door and the name is Bernd Mehlitz, a 44-year-old civil servant who is the first rock music commissioner in the Federal Republic.

Mehlitz says he is just the usual official, but that is not half the truth. He used to work with the Finance Senator in West Berlin and then he went to write speeches for the Interior Senator.

He came to this department when it was formed in 1979: "I was quite excited at being able to do something different."

The aim was not just to promote music, but to help young people and get them off the street.

The loose description of him as "rock representative of the Senate" could be misinterpreted. But since, word has got around that he is not involved with rockers but with music.

And not just with rock music, but with the entire range of pop music including beat bands, song writer— singers and folk groups.

The musicians come with their instruments to get help, and that is what they get, although indirectly.

Mehlitz organises competitions and arranges premises for practice. He says getting practice space in a big city like Berlin is a problem. People are always disturbed by bands, so sound proofing is needed.

Acoustic equipment is also necessary and that can cost up to 60,000 marks. As an example, he recently got hold of cellar space at Tempelhof airport. Mehlitz says the department puts in the investment and the groups pay the running costs.

This year he has 700,000 marks available for practice rooms and equipment out of a total budget of 1.055 million marks. This is a higher budget than normal because some was saved from the 1983 budget.

Normally he has to reckon with only 500,000 marks a year which, he says, is not much when it is considered that there are 1,000 groups, including both professionals and hobby bands, in West Berlin with an average of between four and six members each.

Of these 300 have managed to get practice premises through Mehlitz.

Help in this way can be a springboard to success. For example, the Twins, which won a rock group competition in West Berlin in 1980, last year hit the top of both the Canadian and Italian singles charts.

A four-member group, UKW, created with a song called Sommersprossen one of the greatest hits of the socalled new German wave.

Another group, Die Ärzte, is advancing well with its light, fluffy style and witty, ironic lyrics.

West Berlin is an especially responsive sounding board and, next to London, is the European metropolis of pop music.

Mehlitz has made himself absolutely familiar with the Berlin music scene, something which can only be done, he says, after offices have shut for the day by going to see the groups, visiting discos and hearing what is being played.

That is what makes this civil servant different from other civil servants.

Liselotte Müller

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 October 1984)

In debt on the dole: misery increasing

The number of court orders being made because of unpaid debt by unemployed people and others who depend on social security is increasing steadily.

Last year in the Federal Republic and West Berlin there were 478,878 cases, 20 per cent more than in 1982.

Officers who have to claim unpaid taxes from defaulters say that more and more debtors are jobless or otherwise socially disadvantaged.

Things are getting tougher for the collectors: a 72-year-old pensioner from Duisburg, for example, took a hammer to officials because they wanted to impound the family's grandfather clock which was in possession of her 84-year-old sister.

A 56-year-old farmer from Kleve wanted to attack with a pitchfork an uninvited visitor who wanted to take away his cow in settlement for a debt.

Many cases are in some way connected with dole money, either overpayment or false payments.

In the first half of 1983, there was a heavy increase in the number of new cases to 71,000 of non-payment of health insurance and social security contributions.

That compares with 27,000 in the equivalent period of 1982.

The outstanding cash involved in the first half of 1984 was more than half a billion marks. Of this, 100 million was actually collected.

A spokesman in Duisburg said: "There is not as much to collect as there used to be. Most of the people affected by court orders are unemployed or otherwise social cases. They are often living off the smell of an oily rag."

One bailiff says: "When you come across a debt case who depends on social security, it is not a pleasant sight." *dpa*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 October 1984)

Everyone is a foreigner

When the talk is about *Gastarbeiter*, it usually means Turks, Yugoslavs, Italians, Greeks and Spaniards.

The French, English, Danes and Dutch don't come into the reckoning, there are so few of them.

In West Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark, the Turks are far and away the biggest guest worker group. In Belgium, there are more Italians than any other group. In Luxembourg, the Portuguese top the table and in Britain it is the Irish.

There are also German *Gastarbeiter*. In the Netherlands, they are the second biggest group behind the Turks, a very poor second though, with 42,282 compared with 147,970.

There are 42,000 Germans in Britain — which puts them in third place — and 7,967 in Denmark. In France there are 43,000 Germans.

Luxembourg has the highest foreign population of all EEC countries, 95,789 of a total population of 365,100, or about 26 per cent.

Germans number 8,851, which puts them fourth on the list.

More than 160,000 Germans are working in the various EEC countries, but that is excluding those in Ireland, Greece and Italy, for which figures are not available.

Presumably there are not fewer Germans working there. But perhaps they are just enjoying themselves.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 18 October 1984)

Churches ste[p] in and hide expelled alien[s]

Two foreign families threatened [...] expulsion by the Hamburg auth[or]ities are being protected by churches [...] West Germany, extensive powers [...] aliens right of residence and work [...] been devolved to the Länder).

Debjani and Dipak Ranjan Datta [...] Indian couple, are being hidden by [...] Church of Christ community bec[ause] they are required to leave Hamburg [...] spite the fact that they have been t[here] for 23 years.

A Filipino woman, Susan Alvi[ola] and her two children have moved [...] two rooms in the community centre [...] another church as a precaution.

Mrs Alviola's husband has been [...] seaman on board a Hamburg-based [...] since the beginning of the 1970, but [...] ship has now been taken out of com[mis]sion.

Both families have been under [...] protection of the church before and [...] den by the community. But both [...] turned to their own homes following [...] surances by the authorities that, in [the] meantime, they would not be threatened with repatriation.

But the situation has in the mean[time] changed drastically. The period of [...] for the Dattas was not extended. On [Oc]tober 12, they were told that they [...] produce air tickets out of the coun[try] within 10 days.

So they immediately returned to [...] Church of Christ community which [...] sheltered them.

Members of the church commu[nity] plan a protest. They say Hamburg [...] Senate has broken its promise [...] would have made their long-term [...] possible under pending regulations [...] erning cases of people who have been [...] Germany for a long time.

The case of Mrs Alviola is the sub[ject] of legal dispute. In January, she [...] against the planned expulsion and [...] to ensure that no action was taken [...] court decisions were handed down.

But, after two hearings, one a [...] higher regional court, the judges [...] cided that there were no grounds [...] deferrment of an expulsion ord[er].

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Until death us do part — but probably sooner

Marriage is becoming less of a lifelong partnership. In all industrialised nations, the rate of marital breakup is rising.

Some estimates are that within the next decade, almost half of all marriages will break up. That figure has already been reached in the USA.

This means women will have to keep on working throughout their marriage if they want to avoid the risk of becoming unemployable once they are separated.

Proposed changes to marriage and family legislation clearly show that a woman can no longer rely on her husband to keep on providing indefinitely once the marriage has ended.

The new proposals indicate that maintenance should be linked to how long the couple were married for.

This means that the economically weaker member, in most cases the woman, would have to find a job quickly in order to be able to fend for herself.

Those unable to manage would just become another burden on social security.

Fifty-eight per cent of separations today are at the instigation of the woman.

The strong claims by women on an intact marriage and family is given support by opinion polls.

Professor Dr Josef Schmid, of Bamberg University, says in a new book about population changes in the Federal Republic that men "are meeting ever greater difficulties in trying to fit in with the wishes and ideas of their wives. They see themselves as being more and more exposed to criticism."

Investigation showed that only 50 per cent of separated women would marry their former husband again, whereas 80 per cent of men would.

Professor Schmid says separation of marriage partners is increasing because: society was less critical; people were less involved with religion; fewer children were being born; women [...] better educated; and marriage partn[ers] had higher expectations of each ot[her] and were therefore more quickly d[is]appointed.

Marriage today served more [...] emotional needs of people rather th[an] securing material needs.

But longer life expectancy was [...] other reason for instability. After ye[ars] of living together, people who marr[ied] young, for example, one day had [...] more to say to each other, but in m[id]dle age were still young enough to lo[ok] forward to a future either on their o[wn] or with another partner.

More than a million children are [af]fected each year by broken marriag[es]. 530,000 stay with the mother, 60,0[00] with the father and the rest with st[ep] parents.

Professor Schmid said so[...] changes were tending constantly to[w]ards the individual. This meant [...] decline of the family as an area of o[bli]gation.

Silvia Berge[r]

(Der Tagesspiegel, 14 October 19[84])

■ THE LAW

Fears of integrated terror on international scale

DIE WELT

They are not on a diving expedition to Antilia, the legendary island ly[ing] between Europe and the Caribbean, [b]ut are searching more earnestly for a [le]ft-wing terrorist group that has the [sl]ogan "Make more Grenadas".

The emergence of an hitherto unknown Caribbean terrorist group in France has [oc]cupied the police in several European [co]untries, who have been involved them[sel]ves in terrorism, at a conference held at [th]e Hiltrup police academy.

The conference was organised by the [in]ternational police union. Papers were [re]ad by police representatives from France, Italy, Britain and West Germany on the terrorism position in their various countries. The Italian represen[ta]tive Francesco Guiseppe Minerva re[po]rted on the Italian police's success in [de]aling with the Red Brigade.

After the arrests in Frankfurt and [ot]her locations in June the most-sought [te]rrorists in this country have disap[pe]ared without a trace. The where[ab]outs of only a few of the members of [R]AF (Red Army Faction) are known, [an]d they have moved abroad to Baghdad, Damascus and South Yemen.

Gerhard Boeden, vice-president of [the] Federal Crime Office reported at [len]gth about the arrests in the summer. He said that the police learned of the [re]cruitment tactics employed. Until [n]ow there had been the hard core of RAF followers that were known to the police. There were now supporters who [w]ere unknown to the authorities.

The terrorist leadership was no longer [ma]de up only of known terrorists, those [fo]r whom a warrant was out for their arrest. "This made the fight against terrorism [a]ll the more difficult," Boeden said.

Police believe that the leadership is [ma]de up of six to ten members. They [pi]ck out their victims with considerable [ca]re, weigh up the risks and effect and [ne]ed plenty of time to plan.

"This is where there is a chance of [tr]acking down RAF members," Boeden [sa]id. During the planning phase the RAF must reconnoitre the location of [th]eir victim or the object of their attack.

The national reports at the Hiltrup [con]ference indicated that there is the likelihood one day of their being international terrorism.

The experts mean by this that there will be an integrated command, a central leadership for strikes and raids, leadership cooperation between various nationalities and a pooling of operational aims.

The French anti-terrorist squad is currently concerned that groups in France will link up with the Italian left-wing extremists, members of the Red Brigade who have fled from the police. Recently a French-Italian group came to light.The French believe that this group is involved with the separist movement from Corsica and similarly motivated groups from Brittany who operate like terrorists. They are involved in attacks on nuclear power stations and data processing installations.

In order to calm down the unrest in the French Basque country 24 ETA members, belonging to the leadership, were extradicted.

As evidence of how serious the matter is taken at the Elysée Palace the French spokesman reported that an inter-ministerial committee had been set up under the chairmanship of the interior minister.

M. Le Mouel told the head of the police union Günter Schröder that "it would be very useful to establish a bureau for European cooperation."

The Spanish are equally interested in improved cooperation. They have recently sent a general to Belgium and Italy to have talks with officials.

The Italian representative from Genoa, Francesco Guiseppe Minerva said that the Italian police had been able to grind down the Red Brigade, destroy the organisation and bring terrorism down to the lowest level.

Minerva said that those who did not give themselves up or were arrested have escaped abroad. Since 1983 there has no longer been a list of victims.

The left extremists had hoped to bring down the state with their urban guerilla tactics. Revolutionary forces would be united under Red Brigade leadership that would serve a battling communist party.

An example of this, that has now fallen on its face, was Bologna with its University, the largest in Italy. The city was governed by the communists. In the 1970s the Red Brigade decided to conclude the propaganda phase and to open hostilities.

But the masses in Italy quickly realised what it meant to support the Red Brigade and to tolerate "only mourning and the dead".

Superintendant Desmond Brown from Britain said that the position in Britain had nothing to do with neo-Marxism or anarchism but was more like the West German Baader-Meinhof or the Italian Red Brigade situation.

He said: "In Northern Ireland we are having to deal with violence more extreme than anything since 1969."

He told the Hiltrup conference that 200 police officers had been killed by rioting since 1969, 480 injured, 1,680 attacks made on police buildings and 8,000 explosions.

Echoing what Gerhard Boeden had said the British police officer, an expert in dealing with Northern Ireland terrorism said that no time should be lost in organising international cooperation to combat terrorism.

He said: "The battle against this new cooperation between terrorists must be organised now. It is not a matter that can be left to the future."

Werner Kahl

(Die Welt, 11 October 1984)

Continued from page 14

The court said it did not believe Mrs [Al]viola's contention that the German [Em]bassy in Manila had told her that the [wi]fe of a seaman working on a German [shi]p would get a residential permit in [H]amburg.

Her lawyer, Rolf Geffkin, has ac[cu]sed the Hamburg authorities of want[in]g to make an example of the family to [dis]courage other foreigners challenging [of]ficial decisions.

It was, he said, noteworthy that Ham[bu]rg's Senate had decided on new regul[ati]ons for residence, but it had been de[ci]ded that these two cases were specif[ic]ally to be excluded from any changes.

Lawyers could not do much more, le[ga]lly speaking, he said. It was now up to [th]e authority to dirty its hands in the bu[sin]ess.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 23 October 1984)

Traffic charge double-dutch, says judge

Many traffic offenders may avoid conviction if their charges are couched in difficult-to-read computer language.

Judge Rudolf Heindl, 42, of Hersbruck, complained about the computer-language abbreviations and numerical codings during a hearing — and threw the case out.

The judge scratched his head in irritation when he was called upon to make a judgment on computer information provided by the central Bavarian police office.

Judge Heindl turned to legislation that said that the language of proceedings should be German, and so he dismissed the case against a driver charged with speeding, because it was written in computerese.

The public prosecutor intends to go ahead with the original charge, however, otherwise there would be chaos in the computerised fines department. Hundreds of thouands of traffic offenders would be able to cock a snook at the police and the authorities.

The case is now pending before a higher court. But whatever the outcome it will give officials something to think about.

Judge Heindl complained about a whole series of abbreviations and numbers for specific expressions on the fine instruction.

He maintained that it was incomprehensible to ordinary people and certainly not German. In order to read the date the sheet had to be turned 90 degrees.

He said: "Such a way of writting might be acceptable in China but it is not usual in the west." *Hans Wüllenweber*

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 19 October 1984)

Bike thefts cost nation more than bank raids

Bicycle thefts are costing West Germany more than bank robberies.

Last year, 475,850 bicycles were stolen. If each cost DM200, the replacement value would be DM95.1 million.

In fact insurance companies paid out DM105 million for allegedly or apparently stolen bicycles.

Both figures are higher than the loss caused by bank raids last year: DM89 million.

In many places the police will be limited in dealing with this type of crime because household insurance, as from the New Year, will only give cover for a crash.

But the police are not entirely powerless to deal with bicycle theft. With the aid of special investigators it has been possible to reduce the incidence of this crime, catching thieves, and swindlers and retrieving stolen bikes.

One example is in Hamburg where at the end of last year seventeen branch offices of insurance companies set up an association for the protection of the bicycle.

The Hamburg police were the movers behind a test campaign in which bicycle passses were issued in which the details of all bicycles were put on file.

This meant that the solution figure of stolen bicycles rose from two to a praiseworthy sixty per cent and more, than a half of the stolen bicycles in the area involved were returned to their owners.

These figures convinced the insurance companies. With an annual contribution of between DM7,000 and DM21,000 they are financing the association so that the test area can be extended to the whole of Hamburg.

The Hamburger Feuerkasse is leading the operation. The administration and processing of data that has been accumulating rapidly since the beginning of the year is being handled by a service company, that is charging the association DM220,000 per year for its work.

The Hamburg police hope that eventually they will be able to retrieve for their owners 5,000 bicycles with a value of one million deutschmarks. Dr Herbert Schäfer, chief of Bremen's crime squad explained that it was possible to combat this major crime without the assistance of insurance companies, writing in the magazine *Kriminalistik*, describing the action taken by the police in Groß-Gerau.

Bicycle theft accounted for between fifteen and twenty per cent of all crime over the past few years. Since 1978 a special five-man squad has been set up to deal with bicycle theft, and the solution quota has risen from three to 34.1 per cent.

Without a bicycle pass, only by examining police reports (place of the crime, place of discovery and so on) the five police officers were able to discover the source of this crime in Groß-Gerau, a residential area of appartment blocks.

In many of the reports made it was posible to identify cases of fraud.

Working with the justice department there was a speedy rise in convictions for bicycle theft in Groß-Gerau. Many of the thieves stole between 20 and 150 bicycles in the course of two years. After the first or second conviction most did not return to this kind of theft.

The Duisburg police working in a similar way by investigating reports and making bicycle controls were able to record a 17.3 per cent increase in the solution of this type of crime.

Special investigators in Cologne and Krefeld have had similar successes.

In a small community one single specialist can have considerable effect, according to Schäfer who referred to the police in Bobingen. There when a bicycle theft was reported the scene of the crime was visited, people living nearby questioned, young people who reported that their bicycles had been stolen were questioned with particular reference to their "economic background" and warned about the risks involved in trying on an insurance fraud.

Controls on bicycles and taking a close look at suspicious cases have made matters very risky for a thief who has stolen bicycles many times.

In Bobingen the old police saying holds true: "Fear protects the forest."

Jürgen Diebäcker

(Reinische Post, 23 October 1984)